NEWS, PAGE 6



wspaper of the Year for photographs INI)FP

Tuesday 10 March 1998 45p (IR50p)

Freedom for McAliskey and her baby

and Ros Wynne Jones

ROISIN McAliskey, who was wanted in Germany on suspicion of being a member of an IRA bombing team which attacked a British army barracks, was freed last night.

In a dramatic decision the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said he would not allow Ms McAliskey to be extradited to Germany on the grounds that it would be "unjust and oppressive".

The 26-year-old, who was on bail residing at the Maudsley Hospital's mother and baby unit in south London. It is understood that an independent psychiatric report suggested that her health had been seriously undermined by her detention and was deteriorating while on remand

"She is a free woman," a Home Office spokeswoman said last night. However, it was not clear when she would be returning home to Northern Ireland. Her mother, the former MP for Mid Ulster, Bernadette McAliskey, will travel to Britain and her baby, Loinnir." from her home in Coalisland today to see her daughter, who will not leave the hospital until she is well enough.

Ms McAliskey, who was wanted in Germany for questioning ago when he had "a full disover the June 1996 bombing attack on the British Army bar- the Secretary of State for racks in Osnabrück. last night Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam. sent shock waves around Westminster and Dublin. Her release serves to bring an end to the suf-



Roisin McAliskey: 'Health deteriorating in prison'

comes at a critical time in the peace talks and is certain to be condemned by Unionists.

However, it was welcomed by the Irish government, which said it was in the "wider interest of peace" and "would give heart" to those working towards peace. The Irish Foreign Minister, David Andrews, said in a statement: "I have long been concerned about the compelling humanitarian dimension to this case both for Roisin

Mr Andrews said he had repeatedly raised the issue in his contacts with the British government, including the meeting The decision not to extradite of the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental conference four days cussion of its implications" with

"Today's decision not only

Roisin McAliskey and her family but is also in the wider interest

these days," he said. Last night Mrs McAliskey said: "I'm relieved and delighted. We can now concentrate on getting her well again. Roisin is quite calm under the circumstances, but I don't think she really realises what is going on."

of peace and reconciliation in

Ms McAliskey had been held on extradition charges since being arrested in Coalisland in November 1996. She was three months pregnant at the time, but despite this bail was refused. Weak, ill and suffering from a series of complications, she gave birth last summer to

a baby girl weighing 5lb 13oz. The Home Office statement issued last night said: "[Mr Strawl considers the medical evidence in her case would make the extradition unjust or oppressive". It added: "The Home Secretary has explained his decision to the German government. It does not reflect in any way on the fairness of the German legal system or on the quality of the extradition request."

However, Ms McAliskev's supporters have constantly dismissed the German authorities' contention that the former polities student was involved in the mortar attack.

The German government said last night that it could not comment on the decision until it had been made aware of all the reasons behind the move.

Darcey shows off Fonteyn's glitter

No 3,554



Ballet's gems: Dancer Darcey Bussell wearing some of Margot Fonteyn's jewellery which is to be sold by Christies in London today. The diamond and gem brooch is estimated at £4-6,000; tourmaline and diamond earnings £1,200-1,500 Photograph; John Voos

A year in jail for each child killer driver left fatherless

By Andrew Buncombe

A DRINK-DRIVER who killed three cyclists, leaving to avoid the car. He saw that seven children without their fathers, was yesterday jailed for seven years.

Andrew Armstrong, an alcoholic, was seen clutching a bottle of vodka at the wheel of his car shortly before he crashed into the cyclists. He was found to have been more than three times over the limit, after draining the bottle.

Yesterday, Armstrong, 36, an unemployed lift engineer, wept in the dock as a judge told him his actions had shattered countless lives. He had pleaded guilty to three charges of causing death by dangerous driving.

Judge David Hodson told him: "Your thoroughly outrageous and irresponsible behaviour has killed three admirable, hard-working family men and ruined the lives of their loved ones. It's also wrecked your own life and that of your own family.

"Nothing that this court can do can bring back those you have killed and any sentence will be seen by the families of the deceased as inadequate. In a sense those families would be

Newcastle Crown Court heard that five days before Christmas Armstrong had bought a half bottle of the spirit, which he drank at an allotment near his home at Scaton Sluice, Northumberland.

Afterwards he set off, driving erratically on the coast road in

take a walk on the beach. An off-duty policeman out jogging had to dive on to the pavement Armstrong had the bottle close to his month.

It was on this road that Armstrong hit four cyclists, who were on the way home from a cycling trip. Bryan Harrison, 38, his brother Alan, 33, and their brother-in-law Don Smith, 49, were killed. Mr Smith's son-in-law Ray Walls, 25, suffered a broken leg and

fractured right hip. Mr Walls remembered landing among debris on a grass verge. He was then confronted with a "scene of carnage", the court heard. Armstrong, who was also banned from driving for 15 years, had not spotted the cyclists until just before his windscreen shattered.

The car, which was travelling at up to 60mph, came to a rest 50 metres away. Armstrong later asked: "Have I killed someone?"

After the case, Peter Harrison, who has lost two brothers. called for a ban on all drinking and driving,

"What's a safe limit?" he asked. "It's only after a tragedy like this that people find their own limit - regardless of the law. Nobody who has had a drink should drive a car.

"No amount of time in prison will change what has happened. This has devastated everybody, especially the children. Now he has been sentenced we can try and put it his Ford Mondeo, planning to behind us. Time will tell."

Commons toppers are old hat

By Anthony Bevins Folitical Edition

THE COMMONS is to abolish the absurd rule that requires MPs making a point of order to wear a top hat, or other form of "cover", during a parliamentary vote. The last occasion television view-

ers might have seen the practice was on Friday, when points of order were raised during votes on the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill. A report from the Commons Mod-

ernisation Committee said yesterday: "At present, if a Member seeks to raise a point of order during a division, he or she must speak 'seated and covered'. In practice, this means that an opera hat which is kept at each end of the Chamber has to be produced and passed to the Member concerned. This particular practice has almost

certainly brought the House into greater ridicule than almost any other, particularly since the advent of television. We do not believe that it can he allowed to continue." The committee recommendation -

which will be accepted by the House - is that in future, such points of order should either be made directly to the person in the chair, or, more publicly, from one of the benches close to the Speaker's chair, where the complainant can clearly be seen and heard. The committee also recommended

that another archaic practice, *spying strangers", to force a vote on clearing the Chamber of public and press, should be replaced by a more modern device to test the presence of a 40strong quorum of MPs in the House. | pen family could last months longer.



By David Usborne in Boston

LAWYERS for Louise Woodward, the British au pair convicted of manslaughter after the death of baby Matthew Eappen, indicated yesterday that in the event of a retrial they would ask for the victim's body to be exhumed.

The possibility of a whole new trial for Woodward, 20, emerged as the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court heard appeals from both prosecution and the defence. Even with frequent interjections from the panel of seven judges, the hearing lasted barely 50

The defence wants the court to overturn the manslaughter conviction, itself reached only when the trial judge, Hiller Zobel, unilaterally substituted it for the jury's original sentence of second-degree murder. Woodward's lawyers argued that they were unfairly denied access to the baby's skull, which could have proved their case that he died of an injury that was old, and not inflicted, as charged, on 4 February last year. It would be in order to examine the skull that the defence would seek an exhumation in an

eventual retrial. The prosecution, by contrast, attempted to demonstrate that in reducing the sentence and releasing Woodward on time served of 279 days. Judge Zobel abused his powers under Massachusetts statutes. It wants the second-degree conviction reinstated and Woodward sent back to

prison to serve life. The suspense for Woodward, and for the two fiercely-opposing camps supporting her and supporting the Eap-



Appeal: Louise Woodward in court yesterday

Technically, the judges have 120 days to vote on their ruling in the affair. When it comes, it will not be read in open court but handed down in

Woodward, who has been unable to leave Massachusetts since the end of her trial, arrived at court with her parents, Susan and Gary Woodward, who have been over in Boston from England for several days.

of the defence team, said that Woodward, who has been staying at her home north of Boston, had been trying to keep herself distracted, in spite of being unable legally to work or study. As well as going to the gym and reading, she "vacuums the house and pets the cat" she said.

After the hearing, a statement read outside the court on behalf of Deborah Eappen, Matthew's mother, asked that the focus of public attention be switched away from Woodward and back to Matthew, who was nine months old when he died from the head injuries that the prosecution says were inflicted by Woodward shaking and slamming his head.

We will never know what great things Mattie would have achieved and we will never the know the joy he would have brought to his faintly. We will never know that because Louise Woodward took Mattie away from us," the statement said.

Both sides were cautious before attempting to interpret the rapid backand-forth of yesterday's courtroom proceedings. Harvey Silverglate, for the defence, noted however the aggressiveness of Justice Charles Fried as he repeatedly interrupted Sabita Singh, a prosecution lawyer. "I'm encouraged by how pointed some of his questions were," Mr Silverglate said.

After the hearing, the defence conceded it could not rule out the possibility of a retrial. "We are entitled to an acquittal or a dismissal of the charges," Andrew Good of the defence team insisted. "Nothing would satisfy us other than that".

But about the prospect of a new tri-Elaine Whitfield Sharp, a member al, he added: "We would have an unconvicted client. We would not consider that a loss".

> All of the defence team, including its most famous member, Barry Scheck, promised that they would continue to represent Woodward at a new trial, even though the Woodward family has already said it would not contest a decision to leave the mansiaughter conviction intact because of a lack of funds.

Allies pile pressure on Serbs

By Rupert Cornwell

AS the major powers tightened pressure on Yugoslavia yesterday, relatives of the ethnic Albanians killed by Serbian police in Kosovo last week refused to claim the bodies for burial, accusing President Slobodan Milosevic of trying to hide evidence of atrocities.

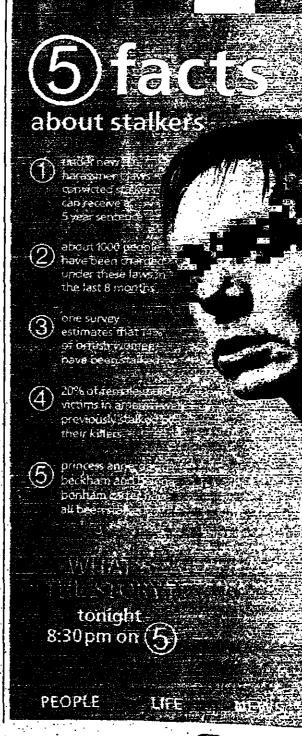
In response to the outcry over what is widely feared could turn into a new Bosnia, the six countries of the Contact Group - Britain, the US, France, Italy, Russia and Germany - moved to have the UN Security Council impose an arms embargo on Yugoslavia, and threatened to freeze assets held abroad by Yugoslavia and Serbia, its

main remaining member republic. Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, who chaired yesterday's foreign ministers' meeting at Lancaster House. London, called the measures "very tough". Russia was reluctant to accept the full package.

In Kosovo, families in Srbice refused to bury some 60 victims, said to including 14 women and 12 children, and are demanding that foreign pathologists be allowed to conduct full and independent post-mortems. In the capital Pristina, at least 50,000 ethnic Albanians marched in a peaceful rally against President Milosevic.

Powers get tough, page 9





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- Behind the song: The lovelorn secret of Radiohead's Creep
- When pop stars find God, or Buddha or Krishna...

CONTENTS



Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK new capers in the first half of 1997.

BSE probe granted more time by Blair

TONY Blair last night granted the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) inquiry team more time to consider the growing mountain of evidence.

The Appeal Court judge Lord Justice Phillips, heading the panel of three, said on the first day of the hearings in London that he needed six more months. "Having analysed the work to be port at the end of the year." he contemplate a report that is suoughness for speed."

Under the original timetable isters had been contacted. Lord Justice Phillips was to

night Dr Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, confirmed in a parliamentary answer that the Government had agreed to the judge's request. A revised date for delivery of the report had been set of 30 June 1999.

Lord Justice Phillips said it was only during the last month that he had come to appreciate done, I have concluded that it volved. Five government decannot be completed within a partments, with the Ministry of timescale that will result in a re- Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Department of Health said. "I am not prepared to at the forefront, had dealings with BSE over a period of perficial because it has been too about 10 years. During that time rushed, and I don't believe that about 150 ministers had served those who are anxiously looking in the relevant departments forward to receiving this report and he had written to them all. politicians, scientists, civil serwould wish us to sacrifice thor- So far, more than 100 scientists and 300 civil servants and min-

The aim of the inquiry have submitted his report on the which is expected to cost more the human disease linked to findings by December 30. Last than £2m-is to explore the caus- BSE-will give evidence.

croscope - are understood to

cancer. Pre-cancerous changes

have been misdiagnosed.



es of "mad cow disease" and the way in which the crisis was handled by civil servants and ministers. Over the next four months, vants, representatives of the beef and food industry, and relatives of victims of new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (nvCJD) -

day with opening statements their power to assist the inquiry. Stuart Isaacs QC, for the NFU, counsel for the Maff, DoH and said: "It is impossible to esti-National Farmers' Union, and a solicitor representing families of victims of nvCJD.

Counsel for Maff and the Department of Health expressed sympathy for the fam-

mate the human tragedy of the disease for its victims and their families. The NFU shares with the victims a wish to establish the facts surrounding BSE."

The hearings began yester- they would do everything in clients were not seeking scapegoats but believed that those who had made decisions on public policy concerning BSE should be held accountable. "They want to ensure that nothing like the BSE epidemic ever happens again," he said.

Roger Tomkins, whose vege David Body, solicitor for tarian daughter, Clare, is dying lies of victims of CID and said the victims' families, said his of nvCID, gives evidence today.

Hospital investigates suspected errors in cervical screening

Health Editor

SUSPECTED errors in the examination of women for signs of cervical cancer are being investigated at a London hospital.

At least seven women at St George's Hospital, Tooting, who had abnormal smears and

High tides

were referred for further in- should have been visible at her "As part of the Trust's standard service was "working in accorearlier examination vestigation by colposcopy visual examination of the cervix Colposcopy examinations using a specially adapted mi-

are normally performed by doctors and it is understood that it is the work of one that is being investigated. No patients are becleared as normal a year ago is ing recalled while the initial believed now to have cervical checks are being carried out.

The hospital last night said:

review procedures, a small number of colposcopy cases are being reviewed with outside experts. The trust cannot discuss the treatment of individual gramme, said women with high-

comment further on the review until it is complete." It added that the colposcopy

dance with the latest national guidelines issued by the NHS". Julietta Patnick, director of

the national screening propatients nor is it possible to grade abnormalities detected by cervical smear or with persistent low-grade abnormalities should be referred for colposcopy.

(written by Terence Armstrong,

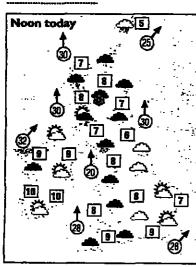
Brian Roberts and Charles

Swithinbank) shows that if you

seen they would be treated immediately and, in nine out of 10 cases, a biopsy, or sample of tissue, should be taken

However, if no abnormality was seen, possibly because the lesion was too far up the cervicai canal, and no biopsy was taken, it could be missed.

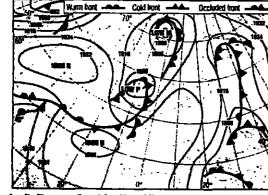
WEATHER



Today's forecast Scotland will have a wet and windy day with the rain lating as snow over the peaks. Northern keland will brighten in the alternoon after a wet morning, but these will still be scattered blustery showers. We northern and western England will start dry and bright but cloud will quickly thicken with rain setting in. The rain may be heavy enough to bring arrewed flooding to parts of Wates. South-east England and East Anglia.

Outlook for the next few days Tornorrow will be a cold day with surrry spells and Thursday, more rain will reach Scotland and Northen Wales will be bright and breezy with itest isolated wintry showers in the east. Friday will be mainly dry

Atlantic chart, noon today



British Isles weather was an anatomic C. Standa, C. Colon, F. Lau, Fig. Trop. 14th Later, M. Hust, F. Laur, S. Samoy, St. Seed. St. Showers, St.

will start cold with some sunshine but rain will arrive

wintry showers, although longer spells of rain and hillheland, preceded by snow over the hills. England and but generally quite cloudy, although cleater skies in southern Britain will allow some overnight fiosi.

Air quality Good Good Good Good Good Good Good

London S England Wales C England N England Scotland Mod Good Good Good Good Good Good

12:19 22:04 17:53 16:57 23:39 11.7 7.7 3.1 ..06.34 ..06.43

Sun & moon

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I HAVE finally lost patience with a document which I had been saving up for a snowy day. It is a publication from the Scott Polar Research Institute which was sent to me by David Reibel of the Department of Language and Linguistic Science at the University of York. On an earlier occasion, Prof Reibel filled in some important gaps in my knowledge of linguistic confusion over Eskimo words for snow. Now he has generously supplied this Illustrated Glassary of Snow and Ice, which draws upon such earlier publications as the Dictionnaire françaisanglais des glaces flottantes by L-E Hamelin (Travaux de l'institut de Géographie de l'Université

terms relating to snow and ice. West Greenlandic, unfortunately, is not among the languages cited, but the document of the Spice Girls. Some of the

Laval, 1959) to provide a com-

plete list of terms in eight dif-

ferent languages for over fifty

are prepared to dig deeply enough there is no shortage of words for ice in any of the lan-As I said, I was waiting for

a snowy day to use this material, but the forecasters have been predicting sleet (or ranta, as they say in Finland) for so long now without my spotting snoflak; Danish: snofnug) that I can wait no longer.

What comes through most strongly from this glossary is the lack of linguistic imagination of the Spaniards (or to be more precise the Argentinians, since it is their more snow-rich form of Spanish which is used here) and the utter perversity of Icelanders. For example, a rocky crag or small mountain projecting from a glacier is called. in English, by the borrowed term "nunatak". The Danes, French, Germans, Norwegians, Spanish and even the Russians call it "nunatak" (though the latter transliterate it into Cyrillic before doing so). And what do the lcelanders call a nunatak? They call it Jökulsker.

In English, Danish, French, German, and Norwegian, a wave or band on the surface of a valley glacier is called "ogive". The Spanish vary only a little in calling it ofive, the Russians say ogiv, but the Icestep with skari, which is, I believe, in English a name for one

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terms in English, incidentally, offer a ready-made set of names for any group wanting to call themselves the Ice Girls: Anchor Ice, Brash Ice, Dead Ice, Fast Ice and the sensible one of the group, Level lee. Talking of being Skari, it is

Danes and Norwegians have no word for "hostile ice" - which shows that it takes more than a chunk of ice to scare mem. a single snowflake (Norwegian: Actually, neither of them has a word for "friendly ice" either, suggesting that they just take all ice as it comes. Or it could be a sign that neither Denmark nor Norway is very well endowed with submarines, since both friendly and hostile ice refer to the ice canopy as viewed from beneath by a submariner. They don't have a word for "bummock" either - a submerged hummock of ice. If it is a question of willingness to face danger, the Danes win the overall prize, since theirs is the only language without any word for "anti-icing" - the prevention of ice accumulation on ships and planes, which the Russians take so seriously they call it pre-

on stars

dotvrashenie obledeneniya. The Spaniards seem ill at ease with snow and ice terms, using rather cumbersome circumlocutions rather than inventing new words of their own. Where the English have the romantic term "snowflake" (Da: snefnug; Ic. snjóflygsa; No: landers are again quite out of snoflak), the Spanish settle for copo de nieve, and their slush (Da: Snesjap; Fi: Sohjo; No: snøsørpe;) is nieve pastosa.

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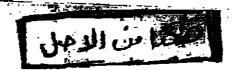
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Monty's Bafta glory leaves Rowan without a bean

By Kate Watson-Smyth

THE highest grossing British film, The Full Monty, has swent the board in the nominations for the 50th British Academy Film awards it was announced last

including best film, best original screenplay and best actor. Mrs nominated eight times, but \$203m.

Bean: the Ultimate Disaster cessful British film made - was not surprised by the nominaignored by the judges.

Carlyle, received 11 nominations world-wide and has still to be indicative of the attitude. released in Japan. Only Four Dench and Billy Connolly, was The Full Monty has so far made

tions. "We are all very proud of

Despite being largely the film we have made and I was panned by the critics, Bean, fea-slightly irritated that Bean did turing the bumbling nerd cre- not receive any nominations at ated by Rowan Atkinson, all because it was a very suc-The film, starring Robert grossed more than \$218m cessful film, but that is just

"There is a preconception Weddings and A Funeral was that a film like that will be rub-Brown, starring Dame Judi more successful, taking \$225m. bish and there is a certain amount of prejudice against big broad comedies, but it was clout with awards-worthy films."

Peter Bennett-Jones, Rowan a good piece of work and we are

Caroline Westbrook, reviews editor of Empire magazine, said that Baftas tended to concentrate on critical acclaim.

"Bean did extremely well but it was not recognised for its screenplay or fine acting so you would not expect it to be nominated," she said. "It was fine for what it was, but you should not equate box-office

Movie - the second most suc- Atkinson's agent, said he was were very happy with it," he tions for Bean, British films have nominated for the best original received widespread recognition this year, but The Full Monty will face stiff competition in the best film category against LA Confidential, Mrs Brown and the current box-office hit Titanic, which received five nominations

including best direction and

The film, tracing the fortunes of a group of British steelworkers who turn to stripping after their attempts to find

Despite the lack of nomina employment fail, has also been ing against Boogie Nights, Mrs Brown and Nil by Mouth. Helena Bonham Carter.

> Kathy Burke and Dame Judi took three of the four nominations for best actress and Robert a later date. Cariyie, Billy Connolly and Ray Winstone are all nominated for best actor. Kevin Spacey and Kim Basinger were also both nominated for their perfor-

mances in LA Confidential.

screenplay where it is compet- British talent on the world more timely." stage. Bafta has created the first

> Lord Puttnam, vice-presi-Film and Television Arts, said: making nation on a world "For the first time in years stage." there is a real sense of vibrancy and excitement around the announced on 19 April.

This year in a move to recog- British film industry. The crenise the growing importance of ation of this award could not be

Tim Angel, the chairman of British Academy Film Awards Bafta, said: "British films are which concentrate solely on enjoying a renaissance and the films. The list of nominees for awards will contribute to this television will be announced at climate of confidence and

"They should reflect the dent of the British Academy of UK's position as a leading film-

The winners will be

The recluse who engineered his way to stardom

IN THE NEWS

ROWAN ATKINSON

BACK in his student days, Rowan Atkinson wanted to be an electrical engineer. It is an image that is hard to match with the rubber-faced comedian whose alter-ego. Mr Bean, is one of the best-known comic creations on British television, writes Kate Watson-Smyth.

The antics of the accident-prone nerd have delighted British audiences for years and he has become a national institution - even appearing on Blind Date - but it took Hollywood to propel him into su-

perstar league. The success of Bean: The Ultimate Disaster Movie helped Atkinson earn an estimated £11.5m last year - eclipsing established British stars including Lord Attenborough, Sir Anthony Hopkins and John Cleese.

In a nation currently obsessed with being cool, it is interesting that Mr Bean should have caught public imagination to such an extent. He epitomises the gawky, socially-inept outsider and looks like a put-upon Latin teacher. When thwarted, he is petulantly vengeful but when satisfied, he resembles a hideous cack-

long been debated and Atkinson's brother Rodney has been named as the most likely source, but it is a

charge he vigorously denies. A businessman who lives with their widowed mother in Northumberland, Rodney is possibly the only person in the UK to have read the Maastricht Treaty word for word. In 1993 he launched an unsuccessful case to have the former Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd prosecuted for treason.

However, Atkinson says Mr Bean is based on what he was like as a nine-year-old. Mercilessly teased at school, he was the butt of playground bullies who thought he looked like an alien and although a bright child "strange". He claims that the age of 12 was the last time he "ever did something funny off stage or away a career on the stage. from the TV cameras".

By the time he left prep school "adolescent self-consciousness had set Now he insists he is "quiet, even dull" when not performing and "too selfconscious even to play charades".



he was quickly marked out as Supernerd: A scene from the 1997 hit Bean: the Ultimate Disaster Movie, starring the rubber-faced comedian

He took a degree in electrical engineering at Newcastle University, gaining the highest marks in his year in" and he became deadly serious. and believed that was where his future lay. But later at Oxford, studying for an MSc, he met up with Richard Curtis, writer of Four Wed-His first public appearance was dires and A Funeral, in which Atkin-The inspiration for Mr Bean has at the Edinburgh Festival at the age son had a cameo, and co-writer of

the hugely popular Blackadder series. He also met the composer Howard Goodall, who wrote the themes for Blackadder and The Thin Blue Line,

the less successful police comedy. In 1976 Atkinson was spotted at the Edinburgh Festival by television producer John Lloyd. "I rushed backstage after the show and introduced myself. I was convinced he would be more famous than Chap-

lin," he said. Lloyd went onto produce Atkinson in Not The Nine O'Clock News, which also brought stardom to Pamela Stevenson, Griff Rhys Jones and Mel Smith.

He is famously reclusive and rarely gives interviews, preferring to live quietly with his wife Sunetra and their two children. Pollowing the success of Mr Bean he is now planning to take a year off.

Peter Bennett-Jones, his agent, said: "Rowan is having a rest for a year and we will think about his next projects after that. We would never say never about another Bean film but we are not thinking about it at the moment."

He also scotched rumours about film being made around Atkinson's incompetent government agent from the Barclaycard advertisements.

optimism.

ATKINSON AND BLAIR Rowan Atkinson went to the same school as Tony Blair. The Prime Minster was I3 and al-

ready a model pupil in the top form at Durham's historic Chorister school when Atkinson arrived at the age of II.

Former headmaster Canon John Grove says the two boys were like chalk and cheese: "Rowan was shy with a slight stutter and a slightly rubbery face, just like the one he

has now." Of Mr Blair he says: "He was outgoing. If you needed a volunteer, he was

the boy who always had his hand up." HOW BEAN WAS BORN

Atkinson based Bean on what he was like as a nine-year-old. At school he was mercilessly teased by playground bullies who thought he looked like an alien. His nicknames were Doople, Zoonie, Greenman and Gruman, "There's a lot of Mr Bean in me," says Atlonson. "He's socially inept, selfish and has no manners - yet he can be sweet, innocent and well-meaning."

ATKINSON THE RECLUSE One of the more reclusive figures in British showbusiness. Atlanson, 43, owns a £500,000 18th-century rectory in Oxfordshire - where he lives with his wife Sunetra and their two children - and a £650,000 house in Chelsea.

BOOMING BEAN

Mr Bean is the most popular cornedy on British television. Audiences reach as high as 18m; even repeats attract 12m viewers. It has been shown in 94 countries and sold more than seven million videos but only 14 half-hour episodes have been made.

Python stars sue to regain control of 'Life of Brian'

By Rosa Prince

THE STARS of Monty Python yesterday launched an action in the High Court to try to win back control over their film Life of Brian.

The film, which chronicles the adventures of an unwilling messiah called Brian, has been controversial since its release in 1978 when it was labelled blasphemous by religious

Now the Python team are suing the film's distributor. Paragon, for allowing Life of Brian to be cut without their permission and for licensing the film at a rate that they say was not businesslike.

They are also bringing an action against Channel 4 for showing the film under licence from Paragon when, according to James Munby QC, representing Python, the station knew the team was unhappy with the deal.

censed to Channel 4 by Python's former distributor Hand Made, owned by the Beatle's George Harrison, for £250,000 with the agreement that it would be shown no more than twice over the following five years.



In 1991 the film was li- Film in jeopardy: The Monty Python team still fear Life of Brian could be cut to quell accusations of blasphemy

1996, by which time it had passed on to Paragon, it made just \$100,000 (£62,500) for a 30year period. There were no lim-

When the film was once its to the number of times it more licensed to the station in could be shown and the deal applied to all forms of broadcasting, not just terrestrial television. Mr Munby said on behalf of Python:

"To grant rates of this sort in relation to a film for a period of 30 years when no one can foretell the nature of technology which may be in place down the line is little short of mad-

The High Court action came the day after the surviving Pythons - John Cleese, Michael Palin, Terry Jones. Eric Idle and Terry Gilliam performed together for the first time in 18 years.

The sixth member of the group, Graham Chapman, who died 10 years ago, wrote much of the screenplay and starred as Brian, who in the film ends up on a cross while those around him sing "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life".

The Python team say that it is scenes such as this, and lines like: "He's not the messiah he's a very naughty boy", spoken by Brian's mum played by Terry Jones, which make the film ripe for censorship by those who even now fear it will give of-

They accused Paragon of failing to include in licences an obligation that the film would not be cut.

The action, which is expected to last for three weeks, continues tomorrow.

Rail regulator's progress checked by a stone

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Conespondent

IT IS a radivay line that local groups fought to re-open. But last week, the railways' fat controller could have been forgiven for wishing it had never been built.

described as a "murderous assault" by stone-lobbing youths as he travelled in the driver's can of a Lancashire train.

Mr Swift, whose nerve is not in doubt in City circles, was "badly shaken" after vandals between Darwen and Blackburn stoned the front windows of the driver's cab of the North Western Train service.

The attack took place last Friday when Mr Swift was taking train to Clitheroe for a meeting with local rail campaigners. Three years ago, they had successfully lobbied to get the Ribble Valley service reinstated.

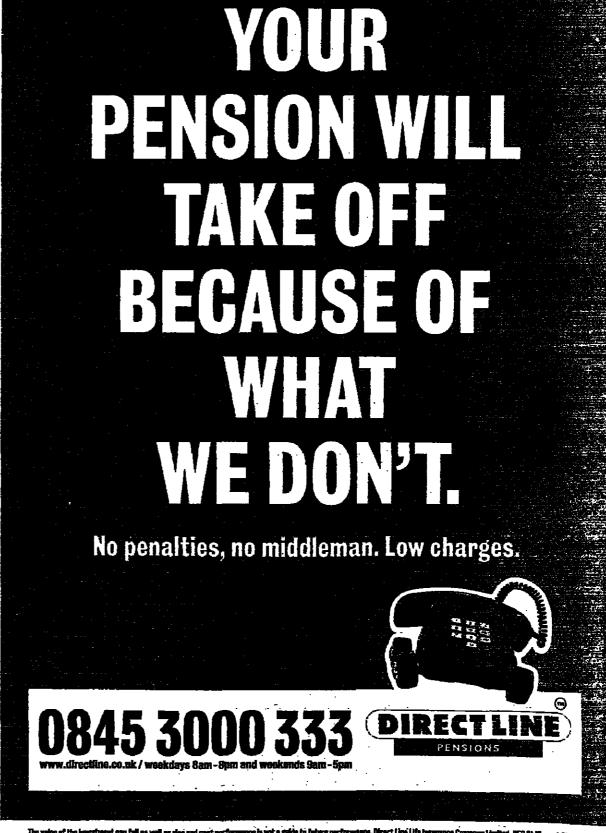
John Swift OC, the rail regulator and tootling along and I was admiring the passenger's champion, survived what he scenery and suddenly there were two shattering crashes ... It was an alarming and all too frequent indication of how the security if the railways and the people travelling on them must continue to be of prime concern."

Tough on crime and tougher on those who commit offences, Mr Swift was quick to attack - verbally - the vandals. "It

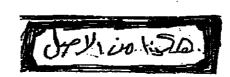
brought home to me how important it is to retain morale in the people we ask to run these trains in the face of murderous attempts by youngsters who should know

Mr Swift does not shirk a fight. Since According to Mr Swift: "We were the election of a Labour government he has roughed up the rail industry - considered by many of privatisation's critics to have been given an easy ride by the previous Conservative administration.

> He has attacked Railtrack for "wholly unacceptable" spending on maintenance, fined train companies for the poor service provided by the telephone enquiry bureau and highlighted the misselling of train tickets.



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6 Prescott may have been known affectionately as 'thumper' by his friends, but he denies that he hit Hayes 9

6 What Hayes describes as a punch in the stomach might seem to Prescott just a jab, but he says it was a punch?



Prescott may sue over claims he hit Tory

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

IT could be seconds out today for a libel action pitching John Prescott, the Deputy Prime columnist for Mohamed Al Minister, in the red corner, against the diminutive former blue corner.

"thumper" by his friends in the sue Mr Hayes for claiming he about him on the radio. hit the Tory MP when Labour

warned that unless an apology is forthcoming, a writ would be issued for the allegation by Mr Hayes, now a political gossip

Fayed's Punch magazine. The Deputy Prime Minister Tory MP, Jerry Hayes, in the strongly denies hitting Mr Haves in the stomach playfully Mr Prescott may affection- or otherwise in the members' ately have been called lobby of the House of Commons after Mr Hayes made 1980s, but he is threatening to some unflaterring comments

> "It's just not true so he will be seeking an apology," said one

Mr Prescott's solicitors have of Mr Prescott's friends. "He is certainly not ruling out the question of suing."

> bandle himself when he was in the Merchant Navy, recently demonstrated his self-control at the Brit awards when a member of the pop group Chumbawumba sought to gain publicity by throwing a bucket

> He was not in a forgiving mood following the incident. He later summoned the organisers of the awards to his office to give them a carpeting.

Mr Prescott could be the first member of Tony Blair's Cabinet to go to court if he decides to Mr Prescott, who learned to sue over the allegations made by Mr Hayes. The editor of Punch, James Steen, said the magazine was not publishing an apology, but was carrying four pages on its legal fisticuffs with Mr Prescott, with a front page

> judge's wig. Mr Steen said Mr Prescott's solicitors, Davenport Lyons, had sent a letter a week ago. "What they want is an apology

photo-montage of the Deputy

Prime Minister wearing a

published in the magazine, a statement in open court publicly retracting the allegations and an undertaking we won't republish

We are expecting a writ tomorrow. We are not going to apologise. I have spoken to Jerry Hayes about this. Jerry Hayes is half the size of John Prescott. What he describes as seem to John Prescott just a jab, but he says it was a punch."

After the dousing by Danbert Nobacon, Mr Prescott complained at the weekend

that it seemed to be "open season" against him after reports regions, into regional policy. alleging that he had failed to declare £27,000 from the Joseph

Rowntree Trust. Sir Norman Fowler, Mr Prescott's Tory shadow, last night pursued the allegation by the register of members' intercalling for an investigation in a letter to Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary commissioner for standards.

A spokesman for the trust not paid to him. said yesterday that Mr Prescott

ropean Commissioner for the

Mr Prescott's aides yesterday explained the circumstances to Sir Gordon's office. Mr Prescott declared the first instalment of the donation from the trust in ests but under Sir Gordon's guidance set up a fund to handle a second payment which he did not declare because it was

Mr Prescott insisted that as had approached the trust to the Joseph Rowntree Trust is a on constitutional policy from the well-known charity which pub- trust when Labour was in

attempt to conceal the sum. Sir Norman said he entirely accepted Mr Prescott's statement that he derived no personal financial gain from the contribution. "That is not the issue at stake. The issue is whether money given to aid a specific policy investigation should be declared in the way that, for example, Jack Straw has done."

Mr Straw, Home Secretary. recorded a grant of between £10-£15,000 towards research

Cabinet split over poll system reform

THE CABINET is still split Prime Minister, is also relucover pressure from the Liber- tant to support PR. The Prime al Democrats to replace the Minister has said he is not first past the post voting sys- persuaded by the campaign for tem with proportional repre-

election, writes Colin Brown. Jack Straw yesterday signalled he would support a change to an alternative vote system, but the Liberal Denot count as PR.And sources close to the Home Secretary said he would not support a plus, in which a proportion of MPs would be elected through

"He quite passionately supports the link between MPs and their constituencies and he would not want to see that broken. AV-plus would do that,"

John Prescott, the Deputy Cabinet are being dismissed.

sentation before the next sion chaired by Lord Jenkins, former leader of the SDP, which is due to report on possible reform to the voting system by the end of the year.

Mr Straw said yesterday that a referendum would be held before the election on a new system, but there was no commitment to implement compromise, known as AV- the conclusions of the Jenkins commission for the next poll. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Jack Cunningham, the agriculture minister, are known to support PR but Mr Straw and other opponents in the Cabinet are still as deeply entrenched as ever, and reports of a shift within the

'Legoland' building for MPs goes on apace around the country

By Anthony Bevins

More than £90m has been spent on a "Legoland" office block being pieced together for MPs at

Construction of the £250m pronze and sandstone offices started in January, on the site opposite Big Ben where London Underground has been laying the new Jubilee Line.

But while the Parliamentary Works Directorate has been waiting for London Underground to complete and clear the site, a lot of the work on the new Commons office building has been going on around the country.

A project spokesman told The Independent that it had been decided to prefabricate as much of the new building as and their staff, with six select-

granite plinths and walling, precast concrete floors, columns and arches. "All the flooring units come ready-made, and they'll slot on top of the columns; that's where talk of the Lego kit comes in," the

"The columns are individual stones, but they come readymade in storey-high units with a big metal bar through the middle of them, and a bolt at each end to turn it together.

spokesman said.

"The on-site job is really just putting it all together and bolting it up, and making sure it's wind and weather-proof." When it is completed, the new building will provide individual offices for more than 200 MPs

rooms, exhibition space, restaupost office and "a necessities shoo". Already called Portcullis House, after the Westminster insignia, it is expected to be ready for occupation from the beginning of 2001. Sir Sydney Chapman, Conservative chairman of the all-party Commons Accommodation and Works Committee, has said that

Michael Hopkins and Partners, the architects, had been commissioned "to produce a building designed for a life of 200 years or more, using materials of high quality, including natural stone, bronze and English oak. as befits a site of international

importance." But while the building is design carpeting used in the

dent has been told that there is rant and canteen facilities, a no question of furnishing it with the kind of luxurious fittings that have been commissioned in the existing Palace of Westminster The new building will con-

tain none of the hand-printed

wallpaper, or luxury furnishings,

which provoked the recent row

over the £650,000 redecoration of the Lord Chancellor's apartments. "There will be no wallpaper at all in the building," one source said, "so we can scotch that one; there will be no hand-

printed wallpaper.

The building will also be carpeted with carpet-tiles, rather than the hand-made, Pugin-

possible, with work already sub-committee rooms - one being built to last, with roofing main parliamentary building, stantially completed on sand- equipped for simultaneous and windows made of alumini- "We will be going to the manuct," the project spokesman said. "It will be a plain background with a black spot on it and the office furniture will be bought off the market. What the House decided was that we had to build a building which was not to the standards of the speculative office developer,

knowing it was going to be

pulled down in 30 years' time.

We are building on the pre-

sumption that Parliament lasts for ever. The £250m budget makes al-

lowance for forecast construction price inflation up to the year 2000, and includes the purchase of the site, all fees and expenses, furnishing and fitting out costs, including value-added

Landmine charity to get Army vehicles

By Anthony Bevins

THE Halo Trust is to be given 10 heavy-duty vehicles by the Government, to help with its mine-clearance programme. George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, told the Commons yesterday.

An MoD spokeswoman said later that the trust, which was given high-profile support by Diana, Princess of Wales, had asked for help with equipment. The vehicles had been used by the Army in Bosnia.

Mr Robertson told MPs that the surplus equipment - "Volvo medium-wheel tractors" were worth about £125,000 and would "considerably increase the rate of mine-clearance and the safety of operators".

He said that the Government would soon be destroying about a million anti-personnel landmines, retaining only a small number for mine-clearance and training purposes.

Since it took office, the Government has also doubled its humanitarian de-mining programme budget to £10m - available to non-government organisations, and others, for

mine-clearance projects. The Halo Trust, which will use the "tractors" in northern Afghanistan, and Angola, also operates in Cambodia, Mozambique and Chechnya.

Mr Robertson said: "I am extremely proud that this govemment has led the way in the campaign against anti-personnel landmines. These weapons are a blight on the face of the earth, and the sooner they are outlawed forever, the safer our world will be."

The minister also said that the Government had set up a centre, and he added: "We will continue to use the expertise of the British Army, which is formidable, to make sure that they are able to help not only other military agencies but the civil and humanitarian charitahie community with the work that they are doing, to deal with a weapons system that has damaged and killed so many millions

Canon personal copiers

New Deal scheme to get lone parents back to work goes nationwide

By Diana Coyle Economics Editor

THE Government said yesterday that it had already earmarked almost £500m to help lone parents return to work. Next week's Budget is expected to provide an additional £1bn in help for all low-paid

The New Deal for single parents will next month be extended, earlier than first planned, from eight pilot schemes to all those across the country making a new claim for income support. From October, it will apply to all those whose youngest child is over five.

There will be an additional £6m from April and £25m from October, which will eventually pay for about 1,330 more personal advisers on top of the 80 involved in pilot schemes. The expansion will take government spending on this element of its New Deal to £181m, on

Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Services, told a conference in London



Harriet Harman: Pilots have lifted 1,200 parents off benefit

pilot schemes, which had seen 1,200 parents move off benefit. "It is inconceivable that we could go back to what we had before," she said.

While there was huge enthusiasm for the new scheme among the advisers attending the conference, childcare was only one of the obstacles mentioned. One concern was the new fear among parents that they would lose their entitlethat the Government was de-ment to the higher single par-

lighted with the success of the ent benefit if a new job did not

work out. Michelle Charlesworth, an adviser in Cambridge, said; "This has become quite commonplace in the past few weeks." The result was less willingness to think about hop-

Robert Humphrey, a colleague working in Cambridgeshire, said the lack of available jobs and transport outside the city

ping from one job to another,

were additional problems. But

some women had opted for selfemployment or homeworking after their interviews.

The advisers were unanimous that the biggest improvement in their ability to help clients find work was the fact that they could spend more than an hour in an interview. Previously a Benefits Agency or Employment Service interview lasted no more than two or three minutes. Experts such as Richard La-

yard, a Labour guru at the London School of Economics, have long emphasised extended interviews and personal attention as an effective way of reducing the number of people claiming benefit. The personal advisers from

the eight pilot schemes said that between one-third and onehalf of the women they interviewed were getting job placements. Some involved deals with local employers, such as negotiations with Sainsbury's in north Surrey to try to get shift patterns that suit parents.

A full academic evaluation of the New Deal for ione parents is due to be published in

Lundma charity:

Twelve years for jealous husband in acid attack

PETER Humphrey was an obsessive, jealous husband who decided to exact a sadistic revenge on his estranged wife by disfiguring her face with nitric acid, a jury decided yesterday. The plot went wrong, and it was 21year-old babysitter Beverley Hammett who was left scarred

Yesterday the 51-year-old businessman was jailed for 12 years at Exeter Crown Court. As he was being led down to the cells he screamed out: "I would like to make a comment to this jury, I am not guilty". Passing sentence, Judge Graham Cottle said: "There has not even at least 100 yards away from the been a hint of remorse. You are house. an evil man.'

Ms Hammett's face has been rebuilt with plastic skin. The op- and two weeks before the attack eration is the first time the Susan Humphrey had attemptmethod had been used after a chemical attack. She said she "felt sorry" for her attacker, and that she "could not understand" why he did it.

The man who flung the acid on Ms Hammett's face when she answered the door of the Millwater, throttling him when

A school run by the evangelical

Seventh Day Adventist Church

is set to receive state funding for

tary of State for Education, bas

told the John Loughborough School in Haringey, north Lon-

don, that he "is minded" to ap-

prove its application to become.

money was being used to

support a body which denied

that evolution existed and which

would increase religious divi-

Two months ago state

sions between children.

were horrified that public in the last century.

grant maintained.

David Blunkett, the Secre-

the first time from September.

By Judith Judd

Education Editor

house where she worked in the he found them together. in the summer of 1996 still has tried to ruin her looks and ennot been caught. Police have offered a £10,000 reward.

The intended victim, said the prosecution, was 37-year-old Susan Humphrey, who had split from her husband in 1995 after a nine-year marriage. The main cause, Humphrey claimed, was problems with money.

Humphrey left the marital daily basis and set up listening devices in the house. His wife began divorce proceedings and took out a restraining order under which he had to remove the Humphrey described how she recording equipment and keep

But Humphrey breached the order almost immediately, ed to have him jailed. There was also an incident when acid had been poured into the engine of her car.

Humphrey had also assaulted his former wife's new partner.

term at the 150-pupil John

Loughborough School, one of

two secondary and eight primary schools run by the church.

ministers were minded to fund

the school because it had local

Church, which has many mem-

bers in the Afro-Caribbean

community, broke away from

the Baptist church in America

education director, said: "We

are absolutely delighted. For

three and a half years we have

just like the Roman Catholics,

support and high standards.

Government sources said

The Seventh Day Adventist

Evangelical school

. to get state funds

Devon seaside town of Seaton Humphrey denied that he had sure that if he could not have her, then she would not be attractive for anyone else.

On the night of the attack on 10 July 1996, Humphrey had two containers of nitric acid in the boot of his car due to be delivered for business purposes to a company. But when the incident took place he had a "concrete home, but returned to it on a alibi" about his whereabouts. Prosecution lawyer Gavin Chalmers claimed he must have hired someone else to do it.

> Giving evidence, Mrs got home and saw Ms Hammett's face. She said: "I could not believe the sight I saw. I could not believe someone could do something like this." Mrs Humphrey was asked

while being cross-examined by Mr Grav whether she had anvthing to do with the acid attack on Ms Hammett. She responded: " I have nothing to do with any throwing of any acid.. I would not know anyone who 33-year-old Craig would do such a horrendous



Mighty minimalism: One of the new Vuitton outfits by erning factor in their education? Marc Jacobs which were revealed in Paris yesterday

First the **Vuitton** case, now clothes to put in it

By Tamsin Blanchard Fashion Editor, in Paris

LOUIS VUITTON gave birth to a new fashion monster yesterday. The French label known for making luxury luggage since 1854 launched its first clothing collection, designed by the American minimalist Marc Jacobs. The clothes - flat-front trousers, long skirts, cashmere T-shirts, and rubberised cotton coats in shades of white, grey, pale blue, and a splash of raspberry - were smart, plain and luxurious, much more understated than the luggage and accessories. But these are the sort of clothes that given the fame and reputation of the label - will sell like hot cakes. Prada sold its first collection of hot cakes in 1989 on the back of a few uylou handbags. Then, Prada's turnover was stable, but small. By last year it was £730m, purely because the clothing label has made the accessories so desirable. Louis Vuitton took no

chances with Marc Jacobs yesterday. While John Galliano and Alexander McQueen have run riot over the houses of Dior and Givenchy, LVMH, the company which own both those labels as well as Louis Vuitton, chose Marc Jacobs as the designer with credibility. Kate Moss is a good friend, and he will never send an outfit resembling Cousin IT down the runway as McQueen has done at Givenchy couture. Instead, Jacobs was a sure, safe bet.

If you want to make headlines, employ a British designer; if you want assured commercial success, employ an American.

All the Paris luxury houses are on course for an overhaul this week. Last night, Hermes, the bastion of French luxury leather-work, was given a facelift by the avant-garde Belgium designer Martin Margiela. Later in the week, Celine, known primarily for handbags, presents a new collection by another American, Michael Kors.



for understated luxury Photographs: Ben Elwes

British science needs girls, says minister

Keith Davidson, the church's a limb compared with most

been trying to get state funding their parents' views as the gov-

By Ben Russell

Education Correspondent THOUSANDS of girls must

up to the level of boys.

funding was granted for the first the Church of England, the It is very sad."

Ms Ruddock told an audience of 600 schoolgirls that he persuaded to take up science there were widespread skills A-levels and degrees if Britain shortages in science-, technolis to overcome serious industrial ogy- and engineering-based industries. She said: "These skill skills shortages, Joan Ruddock, shortages can probably only be the minister for women, said yesfilled if you girls get in there and terday. She said the proportion get the education required ... of girls taking up A-kvels in subjects such as chemistry, maths. The statistics are very trou-

called for action to bring them technological society and we need to compete in the world."

creation by God.

some other Christian churches."

the British Humanist Associa-

tion, said: "We are totally

against sectarian education

which impedes the develop-

tolerant society. They are out on

other Christians, Even the Pope

"Why should children have

has accepted evolution.

Robert Ashby, director of

She said only 21 per cent of girls took A-level physics and 16 per cent computing. "We want girls, not just to have jobs ... but to have real careers in science, engineering and technology. We want to see that women are ectual and that means in public life and on public bodies."

She was speaking at a con-

don organised by Gresham College in the City and the Girls

School Association. Professor Susan Greenfield, Gresham Professor of Physic at Oxford, who organised the event. said: "To not do science for the wrong reasons is a matter of concern. We wanted to assess what could be done to inform girls about science and not force them to do science but get them | Stoke Newington in east Lon-

Police round on jailed officers' pensions

POLICE chiefs are trying to daw back thousands of pounds of pension payments due to two officers jailed for corruption, Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday.

Without a special application would continue to receive pension payments while in jail.

Former constable Ronald Palumbo, who was based at

smuggling cannabis worth £2m into Britain. John Donald, a former detective constable with the South East Regional Crime Squad, was taped by the BBC's Panorama programme trying to the Home Secretary, the men to sell evidence to criminals. He is serving 11 years.

Yesterday a Scotland Yard spokesman confirmed that the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, had asked the Home Secretary to

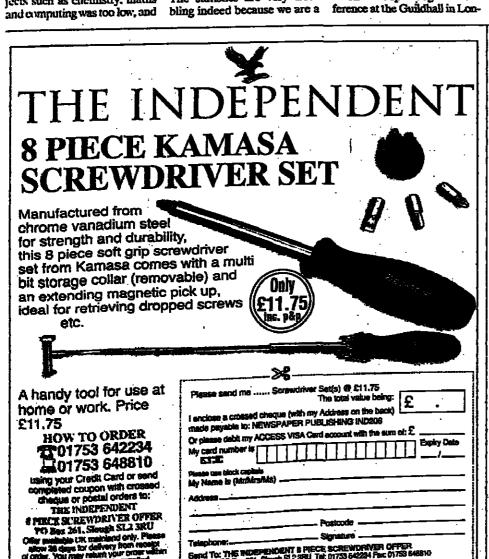
stop a portion of their pensions. woman said the men could lose "We have applied to the Home Office to have part of their pensions forfeited,"

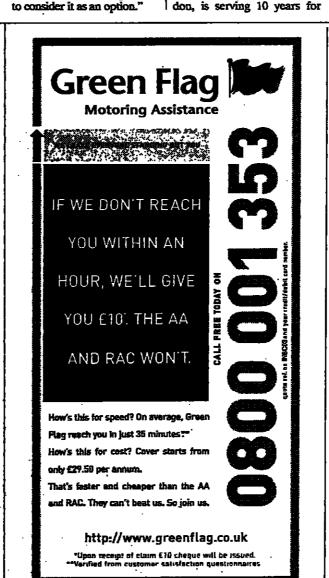
spokesman said. The power to cut the pensions applies only in exceptional circumstances, where an officer's behaviour is so bad "it could lead to a loss of confidence in the service as a whole". the spokesman said.

A Home Office spokes-

up to three-quarters of their pensions - the portion paid for by the taxpayer. The Police Federation,

which represents rank and file officers, backed the move and said it should be done in more cases. Its chairman, Fred Broughton, said: "Evidence suggests that at present chief officers have not been applying these rules."







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Law reform may allow 'Hillsborough' damages

By Kim Sengupta

THE Government's legal re-

future similar actions. It would or from someone else.

form advisers yesterday rec- those killed or injured in the suggested dropping the re- ing to decide whether you had ommended changes to remove tragedy nine years ago had obstacles that prevented rela- sued for the mental illnesses tives of the Hillsborough they developed as a result of the tragedy seeking compensation. trauma. But nearly all failed to and that they see it at first hand. get compensation because they relations would not benefit, the had only indirectly heard about reform would clear the way for the accident - on television

The Law Commission said

those killed in road accidents the current law was drawn "unwould be able to claim damages. necessarily tightly" and pro-rows, the report's author, said: can recover damages just be-Many of the relations of duced "arbitrary results". It disaster should be "close in near period of time." time and space" to the accident,

> The House of Lords had ruled that by the time many relatives arrived at the stadium in Sheffield, they were too late to qualify for damages.

But Professor Andrew Bur-"You end up with the law havquirement that witnesses to a come along in a sufficiently

> To win damages witnesses would still have to prove a "close tie of love and affection" with the victims.

And they would still have to demonstrate they had developed genuine mental illness.

"The law is not saying you cause you are upset. There is a line - and we are saying there of the Family Support Group. should continue to be a line between a recognised psychi-. if it would not apply to us. It's atric illness and mental better to have a new law ap-

The proposals came as Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, sition where they had to fight for reaffirmed his view that there everything through the courts, should be no new inquiry into

said: " It's a step forward, even plying ... in future. Families should not have been in a po-

and then get nothing."

were already filled to capacity. Both relatives of the victims and police officers at the scene sued South Yorkshire Police for damages, claiming it had been negligent in controlling fans entering the stadium.

However, although most of the police officers won large sums, most relatives failed, de-

Relatives of the Hillsbor- killed and more than 400 in- spite the Lords accepting that jured at the stadium when fans their suffering was "no less real posals. Trevor Hicks, chairman were allowed in to stands which and frequently no less painful and disabling" than physical injuries. The Law Commission report homed in on this, saying: "The apparent injustice of this position has been acknowledged by judges, newspapers. MPs and legal commentators."

The Home Office said last night that it would be considering the commission's report.

Dumb or not? Nations go to war over the **Teletubbies**

By Rob Brown Media Editor

middle yesterday, not on and the fact that the series had whether to bomb Iraq, but on no sense of place. "No wonder the merits of the Teletubbies.

the second World Summit on channels," she hissed. Television for Children when a delegate who accused Tinky series for PBS, was having none Winky, Dipsy, Laa-Laa and Po of "dumbing down" kids around the globe was shot down in very is judicrous," she shot back. 'It's undiplomatic language.

Ada Haug, head of preschool programmes with NRK young children I've ever seen." in Norway, was dismissed as an "ignorant slut" by another speaker, Alice Cahn, director of children's programmes with the American public broadcasting called Ms Haug an "ignorant service, PBS.

naked commercialism of the have sounded, being a reference BBC's hit series, whose set, to a line from a popular Amerare reported to have cost the though no one in the press corporation £8.5m to establish. gallery was able to establish "Teletubbies is the most market- which show). orientated children's programme I've ever seen in my

life," said the veteran Scandinavian television executive.

She also criticised the con-Nations were split down the stant repetition, the poor plots the series is proving so popular Debate became heated at on the world's commercial

Ms Cahn, who acquired the of this. "To suggest that Teletubbies signals a dumbing down the most old-fashioned but new-fangled programme for

To the shock of many of the audience in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster Ms Cahn then slut". Later it was explained that Ms Haug criticised the this was not as rude as it may





Old image, new image: The Teletubbies and presenters like Zoe Ball have come under fire for 'dumbing down', while Blue Peter is still held in high regard

fact that the public debate assumed an international dicharacters and initial storylines ican television programme (almension. The creative director of Ragdoll productions said: "I know people would like to Teletubbies, later welcomed the a right to enjoy themselves."

were not designed to be an answer for the world's ills. Those aimed at pre-school youngsters should be a mirror of their

She argued that pro- some delegates might not be speech and those having diffi- effective it had been," he said. ago, who claimed the series was stirred up by the series had now grammes for young children able to identify with the green culties are helped by it". grass of Tubbyland, and said she would be honoured to use film footage from abroad.

Research into the effects of make a wax image of me and own lives and a window to the the programme on children tored: "When parents get to-She acknowledged that itive... It helps them to develop

She was backed up by Roy Thompson, of Children's BBC. who said that the impact of the show had been closely moni-

programme they noticed how

they are gaining things from it." That view was challenged by Patricia Edgar, head of the Children's Television Founda-Anne Wood, the creator of stick pins in it. But children have experiences of other children. had shown it was "entirely pos- gether to talk about the of the first world summit on chil- a screening of Teletubbies to

lottery watchdog

"It appears as entertaining, but - regressive for children "beyond the babbling stage".

Television executives, along with politicians and other decision-makers at the week-long tion in Australia and organiser summit, were invited to watch dren's television three years make up their own minds.

EU warned of chaos if duty-free sales end

By Glenda Cooper

Social Affairs Correspondent

ABOLISHING duty-free sales on ferries and aeroplanes travelling between European countries will result in chaos, you will pay UK excise rates up according to a study by the Duty until the half-way mark and then Free Confederation.

It warns that customers could be put in the "farcical" situation of paying different prices during one ferry journey.

A ban on duty-free sales from 1 July 1999 has been agreed by European Union ry (a journey of 36 hours) governments - but the commission is under pressure to reconsider the impact of abolishing the perk on boat and plane journeys. The duty-free business is worth £5bn a year could all come down to where across Europe and as many as 140,000 jobs could be lost.

EU duty-free sales are said to account for more than half worldwide duty-free turnover of nearly £10bn. Sales at EU air- that in the country of deparports alone are more than a ture. "But we already know quarter of the world's total.

charged at the rate which Mr

applies in the country where the purchase is made. But after the abolition of duty-free, things become more complicated.

"In one of the simplest cases - let's say Dover to Calais pay French rates after that," said Vic Moorcroft, P&O group indirect tax manager. "When you get into international waters no law applies that requires operators to charge any duty."

The Portsmouth-Bilbao ferspends just under an hour in British waters, 15 minutes in French waters, 15-20 minutes in Spanish waters and the rest in international waters. "It you are in the queue," Mr Moorcroft said. "It's a mess."

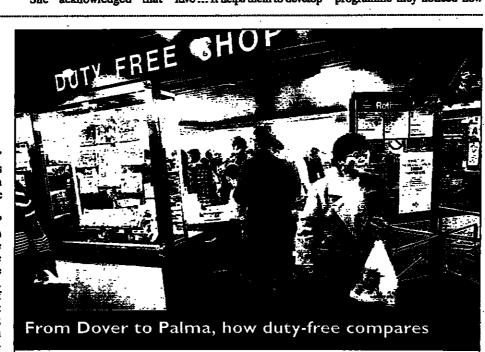
One solution mooted would be a similar system to VAT where the rate charged is what that is costing the UK Ex-Under EU rules the excise chequer by people rushing duty on alcohol and tobacco is over to French hypermarkets," Moorcroft added. single European market.

The duty-free industry wants the commission to organise a study of the social and economic

effects of abolition.

The Conservative MEP James Elles, who also wants a study, is tabling questions to the commission highlighting the "serious concern" about the consequences of abolition. "Some 140,000 jobs - 35,000 of them in the UK - are dependent on duty-free trade," he said. "At a time when the European Union is trying to reduce its un-employment figure of 17.7 million we should not be in the business of unnecessarily de-

stroying jobs." The EU Financial Services Commissioner, Mario Monti, who originally proposed scrapping duty-free, said there would be no reprieve, and no massive losses of jobs and turnover as predicted by duty-free sup-porters. "People are used to going shopping while they are travelling, and that will not change," he said. Duty-free was an anomaly in the border-free



ALCOHOL Gordon's gin I littre UK high street: £15.49 Heathrow: £7.95 Dover - Calais, P&O Stena Line: £9.99 Britannia Airways: £8.99

Palma Airport Majorca: 1,900 pesetas (£7.60)

CIGARETTES 200 Silk Cut UK high street: £32.30 Heathrow: £14.50 Dover - Calais, P&O Stena Line: £15.50 Britannia Airways: £13.99 Palma Airport Majorca: 3,600 pesetas (£14.40)

WATCHES Swatch "original classic UK high street: £25 Heathrow: £21.27 Dover - Calais, P&O Stena Line: £21.20 Palma Airport Majorca: 5,500 pesetas (£22)

PERFUME Chanel No 5, eau de toilette spray, 50mi UK high street: £36.50 Heathrow: £27.90 Britannia Alrways: £27.99 Palma Airport Majorca: 6,700 pesetas

day, launched by the pools company Littlewoods. Prisons chief wins backing

GTech defends its ethics to

THE National Lottery regulator, Oflot, is expected to make a swift decision on the future of Glech, shareholders in Carnelot, after

receiving a submission from the company yesterday about its business practices. Glech responded to a demand by John Stoker, Oflor's acting head, that it supply documents proving that it is "fit

and proper" to be involved in running the lottery. A libel jury de-

cided last month that Guy Snowden, the former head of United

States-based GTech, had tried to bribe Richard Branson into with-

drawing his bid to run the lottery. Mr Stoker said the company

■ Ten million £1 scratchcards aimed at raising money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund went on sale yester-

must dispel concern about its ethics and business practices.

THE Government yesterday rallied to the defence of the be-leaguered Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Prison Service. Alan Shannon is reeling from an unprecedented vote of no confidence in him by the Prison Governors' Association, which says morale at Ulster's top-security jails is desperately low.

A report is due out next week into the murder of the Loy-alist Volunteer Force leader Billy Wright inside the Maze Prison at Christmas and the earlier jailbreak by the IRA terrorist Liam Averill. The Northern Ireland security minister, Adam Ingram, yesterday gave his support to Mr Shannon, who he said had been carrying out a difficult task under very trying circumstances

Move to help black recruits

THE Government's drive to encourage more ethnic minorities to join the Armed Porces may allow new black recruits to serve together in "blocks" to prevent isolation within the services.

The defence minister, John Reid, told the Tory MP Nicholas Soames that this would help to prevent new recruits from being "exposed to those elements who we wish to remove from the Armed Forces". He said the Ministry of Defence was working with the Commission for Racial Equality on this "difficult matter".

Landslide linked to tremor

AN EARTH tremor may have been responsible for a landslide which has blocked the main road through Scotland's Kintyre peninsula. Up to 300 tonnes of rock - one the size of a small house - crashed down on the A83 near Lochgilphead on Saturday, blocking the main road. Police said the road was expected to reopen today, but council officials are studying the possibility of alternative ferry routes if the closure is prolonged.

Antler case prize

ENTRIES for our competition in the Time Off section to win an Antier suitcase have been overwhelming. The five winners for the cases, which come from the "New Directions" range carefully designed so that you can carry them on to the plane - have already been selected. The entries are now closed. Names and addresses of the winners can be supplied on request.

'Coronation Street' star William Roache sues over libel bill



out-of-court settlement

THE Coronation Street star tempt to settle the claim and years the Court of Appeal has would have had to pay his costs could have had an undertaking William Roache is suing a law avert a trial. Costs swallowed the been moving steadily to reduce and its own. The Sun said in a not to repeat the libel had he firm for negligence over its han- £50,000 he won and left him a payments on libel." dling of his libel action against six-figure bill as well. the Sun in 1992. Mr Roache, who plays Ken Barlow, won his firm, said: "He is alleging he action over a claim in Novem-

Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners Carter-Ruck thanking him for after paying both sides' costs all he had done. But the Court £50,000 - an amount the Sun judge's order on costs. This is

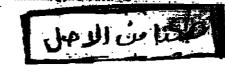
Nigel Tait, a partner in the wasn't given the right advice ber 1990 that he was as boring about payments into court. Afas his screen character and hat- ter the trial he was awarded his ed by his television colleagues. costs by the judge and wrote a He is suing the London firm very appreciative letter to Mr when the jury awarded him of Appeal interfered over the court, including for the trial.

The new case, scheduled for June, will draw attention to payment into court, used to encourage an out-of-court settlement. A plaintiff can accept the money or carry on to trial to win more. But if the eventual award is the same or less, the plaintiff must pay both sides' costs from the date of the payment into

statement at the time: "Mr accepted the settlement. Rnache has learned the first lesson of libel, which is that if you don't like losing, don't play the court was "a most useful game. He could have had

£50,000 and a full apology ..." Mr Roache, 65, looked likewhen a High Court judge ruled that he was justified in pressing on to trial to seek an injunction Roache had gone ahead "bebanning the Sun from repeat- cause he wanted to win a larg-

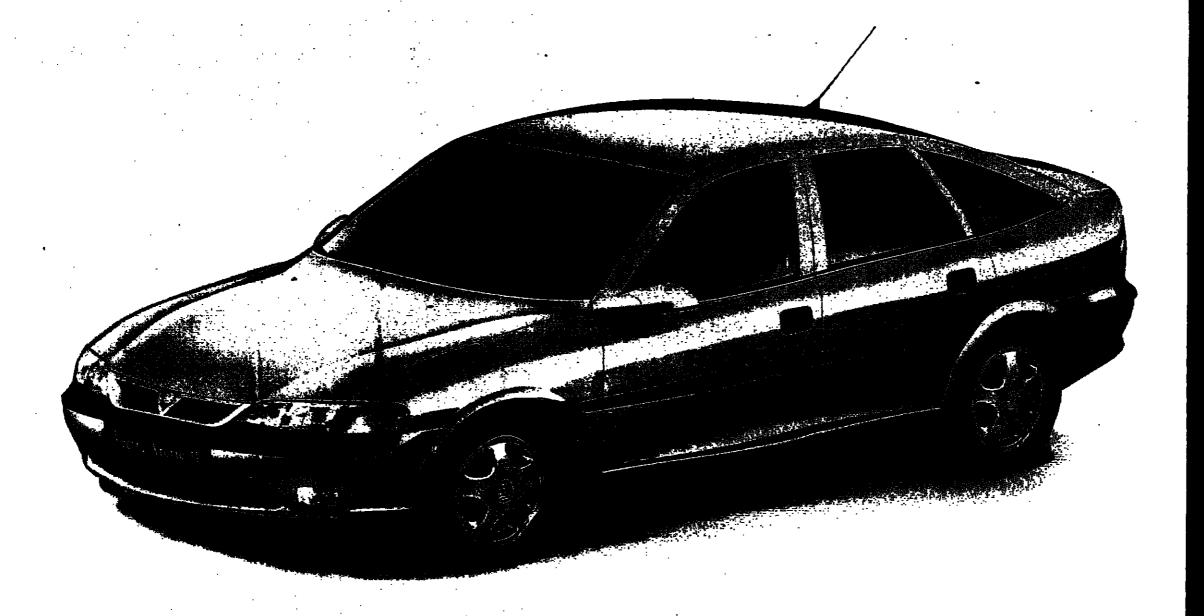
Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said a pre-trial payment into weapon in the hands of a defendant faced with a greedy plaintiff who is making unrealy to escape the costs at first sonable demands for damages". The then Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, said Mr Had Mr Roache been ing the libel. But the Court of er sum from the jury than the had paid into court in an at- highly unusual but over the awarded £50,001, the paper Appeal disagreed, saying be defendants had offered".



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Foster boy's sex victims face a fight for cash

A COUNCIL which placed a Lord Justice Judge and Lord were said to have suffered psyteenage sex abuser with a fos- Justice Mantell will also hear an chiatric illnesses as a result of gence against the authority.

At the start of a test case in the Court of Appeal in London. three judges heard that it revealed "a terrible story" bound er gave the go-ahead for the to evoke sympathy for the fos-

Essex County Council and a social worker are appealing against the decision last July of a High Court judge, Mr Justice Hooper, refusing to strike out claims made by the four children. They were sexually abused by a 15-year-old boy fostered with their family for a month.

legal battle to stop four children Mr Justice Hooper blocking a compensation claim by the parter the boy sexually assaulted

Although Mr Justice Hoopchildren to claim in negligence, they are appealing against his decision to rule out other areas of their case, including alleged breach of contract.

Allan Levy QC, for the foster family - referred to as the "W" family for legal reasons told the three judges: "This case raises important issues concerning the duties of the authority and its social worker in respect of the placement of a child with foster parents."

The 15-year-old boy, referred to as "G", was placed with the family in 1993 when the four children were aged be-

The High Court had been told that G had been cautioned three years previously for in-

ter family yesterday launched a appeal against the decision of what he did to them and the parents were said to have suffered from post-traumatic stress ents for the trauma suffered af- on discovering the nature and extent of G's activities.

Mr Levy said Essex County Council, in its written argument to the court, stated that on any view the case "reveals a terrible story, bound to evoke sympathy for all the W family".

The parents had applied to Essex in about November 1991 to become full-time adolescent

They claimed that when they asked about the 15-year-old they were told only that the boy could be a bully and a liar and that his father, a convicted paedophile, had abused him. The parents say that had they

known the boy had gone into care at the age of 12 after abusing his sister they would not have taken him into their home, Mr Levy claimed that Essex

was seeking "blanket immunity". The council contends that the children have "no cause of action" against it.

O Sinner Man

(transcribed by Christine Rutledge for The Carolina Singers)

O sinner man, O sinner man, O sinner, O which way are you going?

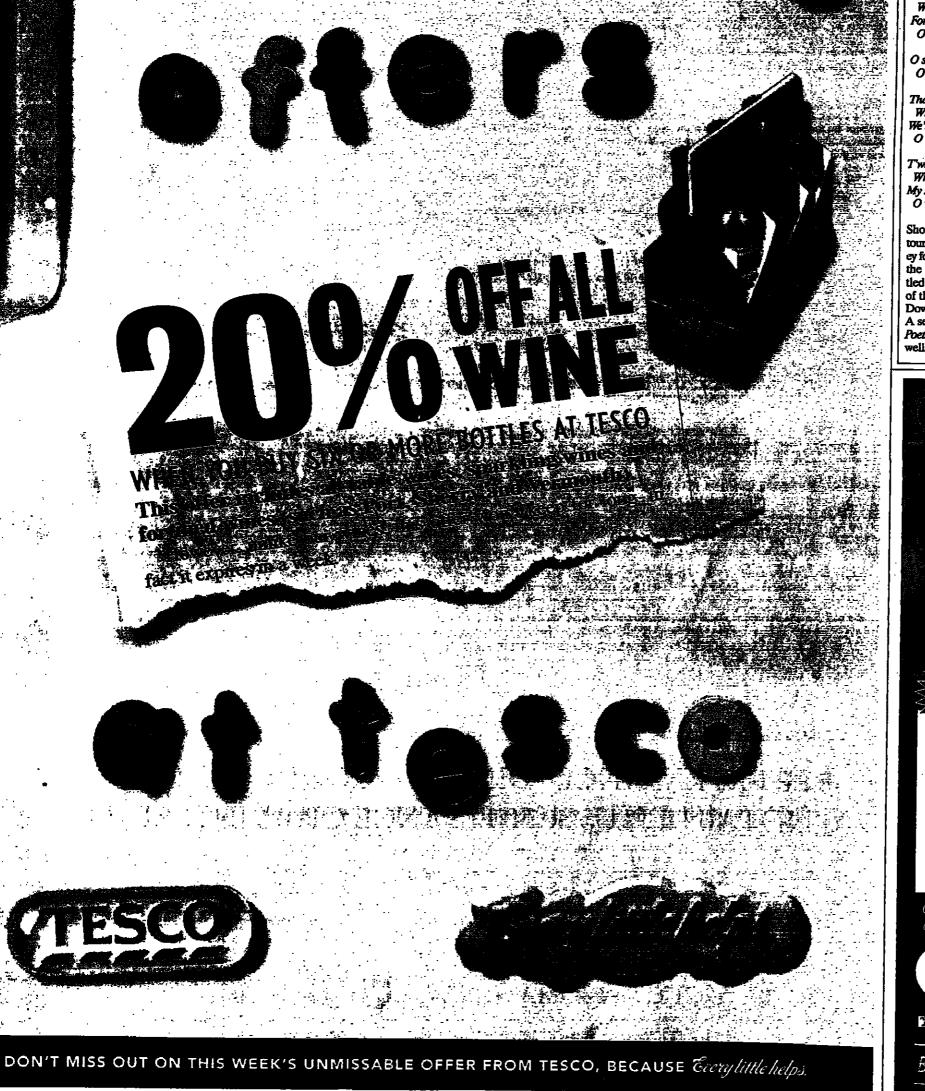
O come back sinner, and don't go there, Which way are you going? For hell is deep and dark, despair. O which way are you going?

O sinner man, O sinner man, O sinner, O which way are you going?

Though days be dark and night be long Which way are you going? We'll shout and sing till we get home; O which way are you going?

Twas just about the break of day, Which way are you going? My sin forgiven and my soul set free, O which way are you going?

Shortly after the American Civil War a group of former slaves toured the northern states as The Carolina Singers, raising mon-ey for black schools. Their leader, Caroline Rutledge, published the traditional songs they sang in 1873, in a pamphlet enti-tled Spirituelles. This was the first appearance in print of many of the best-loved lyrics in the English language, such as "Go Down, Moses", "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Steal Away". A selection appears in Nineteenth-Century American Women Poets: an anthology, edited by Paula Bernat Bennett (Black-





Rey refus a of seat

e pig powe

By Rupert Cornwell

WITH the partial and last-minute assent of Russia, the United States and major European powers yesterday adopted a package of sanctions to force the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, to negotiate a peaceful and political settlement of the bloody crisis in Kosovo.

After a frantic morning of bargaining, which extended their meeting by more than two hours, the foreign ministers of the six-nation Contact Group agreed to place an

arms embargo against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia before the United Nations Security Council, and to ban exports of equipment which could be used for internal repression.

These steps had initially been ruled out by Russia's representative. the deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Afanasyevsky, But Robin Cook, who was chairing the meeting at Lancaster House, then Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and finally Klaus Kinkel of Germany spoke with the Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov by

phone for 30 minutes in all to win his approval, and a second closing statement was distributed to reporters, incorporating the changes.

Thus was the meeting, billed as the moment when the West would read the riot act to Mr Milosevic, saved from virtual failure. Without Russia, Yugoslavia's chief arms supplier, an arms embargo would have been meaningless. Now, British officials said last night, Russia will not not use its veto when the matter comes to the UN, perhaps within days.

The five other Contact members

and Italy - will also refuse visas to Yugoslav and Serbian ministers and senior officials responsible for the violent clampdown in ethnically Albanian Kosovo in which at least 80 people have died, and will halt financial support for trade and investment, including Yugoslavia's _ privatisation programme, whose proceeds analysts believe go directly into strengthening the police and military

who carried out the brutalities. Russia says it cannot back these moves, but will review its position if

- Britain, the US, France, Germany Mr Milosevic remains intransigent. The Contact Group is giving him 10 days to withdraw his special police units from the province, allow access to the Red Cross and commit himself to dialogue with the Albanian majority. Failing that, the Five will impose a freeze on foreign-held funds of the republic and Serbia.

In addition, the group is demanding that Mary Robinson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, be allowed to visit Kosovo, and wants the Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal to indict anyone suspected

of committing such offences in Kosovo.

The West is determined not to allow a repeat of Bosnia, whose civil war from 1992-95 might have been cut short had the West acted quickly and decisively. "This crisis is not an internal affair of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," Mrs Albright told her colleagues. That, however, is precisely the point where Russia takes issue with the others. They see Kosovo as a second Bosnia in the making - "ethnic cleansing all over again," in Ms Albright's words - and

entire southern Balkans. But Russia sees above all the parallels with Chechnya, part of the Russian Fedgration whose own independence struggle was savagely put down by Moscow in the face of intense international criticism.

The question is, of course, what happens if President Milosevic ignores these threats and sanctions as he has ignored so many others in ; the past? The next steps would be an end to air links, perhaps a wider trade embargo.

Survivors of Serb massacre refuse to bury their dead

By Andrew Gumbel in Pristina

SURVIVING relatives of Albanian families decimated by Serbian paramilitary police in the village of Prekaz, in Kosovo. caught their first glimpse yesterday of the charred and shell-battered bodies of their loved ones as more than 40 corpses, including several women and young children, were transported back to the combat zone for burial.

The hodies, which had been under guard in the main morgue in Pristina, the provincial capital, were taken under cover of darkness on Sunday to Srbice, the town nearest Prekaz, which bore the brunt of fighting and is now a smouldering wreck. Pictures smuggled by reporters for the newspaper Koha Ditore showed men, women and children charred and disfigured by the shelling and fire-bombing the security forces rained on Prekaz for three days. One picture showed a child no older than five; the oldest victim was said to be a 92-year-old man.

The bodies were numbered

and lined up in a shed in Stbice. Albanian sources said police were pressing the families to bury their dead quickly, on pain of having them tossed into a communal grave. But the families, supported by rights organisations and political parties, said they wanted international forensic experts to examine the bodies first and collect evidence for any future criminal proceedings against the Serbian

"The signs all point to a massacre. We have clear and undeniable evidence," said Veton Suroj, Koha Ditore's editor and a prominent Kosovo Albanian rights campaigner. He put the number of bodies counted so far at 52, but said the toll could rise above 70 because there were still corpses in woods that relatives were unable to collect for fear of snipers. Last night villagers were still negotiating the recovery of the other bodies, some of which they said had been attacked by wild dogs.

From the pictures it was impossible to count the women and children. Several bodies were charred beyond recognition. But it was clear the offi-

thorities in Kosovo were showing an uncharacteristically low profile - allowing one of the iggest demonstrations of the Albanian population to go ahead in the centre of Pristina without any attempt at breaking up the crowds by force.

More than 100,000 people swamped the town, holding

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their fingers in V for victory positions and chanting "Drenica! Drenica!" after the area where

last week's attacks took place. Placards urged an end to "Serbian terror" and "ethnic cleansing"; there were appeals to the international community and even the occasional US flag on display.

For the first time in living memory in Kosovo, the Serbian police hung back, allowing the protest to run its course for 45 minutes. They were a little more muscular at protests held in other towns around Kosovo.

forcing marchers to change

their route and, in some cases,

thumping small groups on the

vesterday in Pristina, attende by more than 100,000 people Photograph: Reuters

Cutting edge: A Kosovo Albanian with a cut-out flag

during the rally

fringes with their sticks. But there was nothing to compare with the brutality of the watercannon, tear-gas and batoncharges with which they met similar protests a week ago.

The main Albanian party. the LDK, was not about to crow victory. "It's just a game the Serb regime is playing," said party spokesman Hilmi Zogani. They know there is a lot of international pressure, so they are pretending to be good guys for once. You only have to look at what they've done in Drenica to see through them."

The demonstration was marred by the presence of plainclothes police who stared at the noisiest protesters and threatened to track them down once the international television crews had switched off their equipment. As the demonstrators dispersed. Chris Wenner. a cameraman for ITN and Channel 4, was hauled through a doorway along Pristina's main street, robbed off his cameras and beaten. When he emerged. he had a large, swollen cut above one eye and blood streaming down the left-hand side of his face.

cial death-toll of 26 put out by out a fight. That story was the Serbs fell far short. The hard to believe, looking at the Serbs described the dead as traumatised features of a dead "terrorists", barring one or two toddler wrapped in a woollen blanket and laid out on the floor women caught in the crossfire and a child whom they said had of the shed. With the six-nation Conbeen shot by the rebel commander. Adem Jashari. betact Group considering punitive cause he did not want anyone. measures against Serbia at its meeting in London, the auin his village to surrender with-

Turkey refuses consolation prize of seat at EU party

By Katherine Butler in Brussels

BASIL Fawlty might not look out of place if he showed up at Lancaster House in London on Thursday. That is when the leaders of 26 European nations will, at the invitation of Tony Blair, cram into a conference room surrounded by teams of officials, phalanxes of interpreters and armies of foreign ministers. to talk about pollution of the Danube, ear-theft and drugs, in other words nothing much.

Logistical chaos has already been assured by Italy's insistence that all 26 speeches must be simultaneously interpreted into all II of the EU's official languages. That means hordes of interpreters piled into airless glass booths in a room that is already too small for the participants.

British taxpayers will be £1.15m worse off by the time the leaders return home on Thursday evening, having spent three hours at a conferenceopening ceremony and two hours lunching with the Queen.

Called to mark the launch of the European Conference, the event will bring together the 15 EU heads of government, and the prime ministers of the applicant countries - Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic.



At loggerheads: Turkey's Yilmaz (right) has accused German Chancellor Kohl of acting like Hitler

mania, Slovakia. Lithuania, Latvia and Cyprus. The presidents of the European Commission and the European Parliament and the secretarygeneral of the Council of Ministers will also attend, bringing the number of participants to 30. But like brides left waiting at

the altar. Mr Blair and the Queen will be hosting an event where the guest of honour never appears. The chair marked "Ankara" will sit empty, the food prepared for Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz will go uncaten and no one will mention Turkey. The European Conference

was devised as a permanent fo-

Slovenia, Estonia, Bulgaria, Ro- rum where all EU aspirants could review progress with existing members of the club. Then last December, Turkey, banging on the EU's doors since 1963, was sidelined as 11 others were nominated for admission.

Quick thinkers at the Foreign Office came up with a consolation prize: an invitation to the launch of the European Conference, But if Turkey was on the guest list, insisted the Germans, then there would be strictly no mention of EU enlargement. Suddenly the conference was about crime, drugs, the environment, anything in fact, except enlargement.

not coming and worse, they are daring to mention the war. "Lebensraum" thundered the Mr Yilmaz in an interview with the Financial Times last Friday in which he compared the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, to Hitler. "The Germans continue the same strategy as before. They believe in Lebensraum ... their final goal is to divide Europe between Bulgaria and Turkey".

Turkey's very public snub removes any raison d'être the meeting might have had. "It's a joke, an expensive photo-call" said an EU diplomat. "We have heard a lot about royal protocol for the lunch but we still don't know what they really want to achieve," said one East European country official. Critics point out that the ceremony to launch the enlargement negotiations takes place in three weeks time anyway and a very good talking shop already exists in the

38-nation Council of Europe. Mr Blair's hopes that the event would help make the Turks feel included in the "European family" have already back-fired. Indeed, television footage of the "chosen" ones trooping in to see the Queen could it is feared, damage strained relations with Turkey to the point of no repair.

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31 March

France snubs Blair over new Euro club

By Katherine Butler

FRANCE delivered a slap in the face to Tony Blair's EU leadership ambitions yesterday by proposing that Euro-X, a new economic policy club, reserved for countries joining the single currency, should be launched on 19 May.

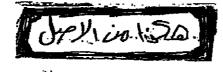
The French want the co-ordination of economic policy within the Euro-zone to begin shortly after the 3 May selection of the first wave of single currency members. But such insensitive timing would highlight Britain's political marginalisation following the Government's decision to rule out joining the single currency for now.

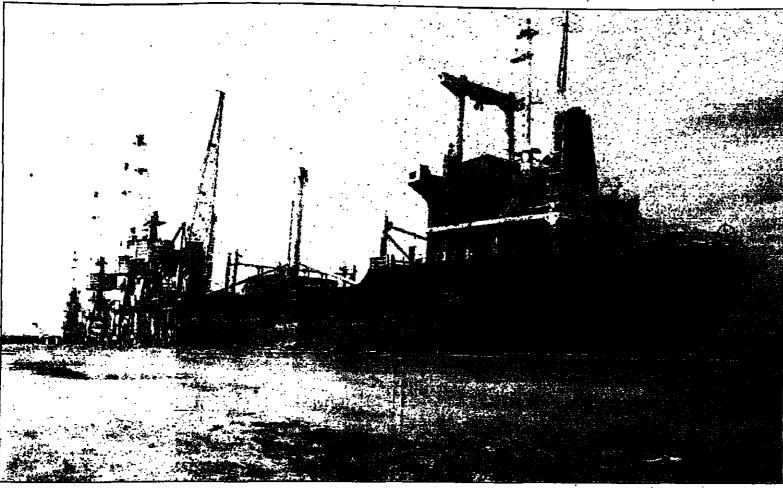
For Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, the move would represent a very public snub. He is chairman of EU finance ministers' meetings until July, but now faces being relegated to another room with his Danish Greek and Swedish colleagues.

The French finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, is expected to seek German backing for the early launch of Euro-X when he meets his German counterpart, Theo Waigel, bilaterally in France today, "As soon as we know for definite who is in EMU we will have a lot of things to co-ordinate, but we also have to decide on the structure and organisation of the committee even if it will be informal," said a senior French official.

Euro-X gave Tony Blair, his first big row with EU partners in December when heads of government formally agreed to its establishment. In Brussels yesterday, Mr Brown clung to the Government's claim that Britain would not be excluded when "matters of common interest" are being discussed.

But the French said yesterday that they will retain a veto over the UK's admission to the club. "The UK will no doubt say they should be in every time we meet but it is absolutely a question for the 'ins' whether something is of common interest. And it is the ins who decide what the outs should be told afterwards", a senior adviser to Mr Strauss-Kahn said.





The big sleep: A dog lies asleep below the tanker Wisteria, which was hit by an Iranian missile in 1981 and lies rotting in Basra Photograph: Robert Fisk

Vodafone's

graphic

demonstration.

falling call costs.

Rotting hulks bear witness to wasting of Iraq

"FIVE Englishmen ran this port until 1958," Ali al-Imara proudly announces. "The first chairman was John Ward, from 1919 until 1942, and then we had William Bennett until 1947. They were very good men.

"In 1958, Mr Shaawi took over; he was a very good man too." There is no mention of the 1958 Iraqi revolution that ended British stewardship of Basra's old harbour.

Today the gates to the wharf are still adorned with well-polished Tudor roses in heavy brass, but the slates have cascaded off the roofs of the old colonial offices. The railway Robert Fisk visits the once-bustling port of Basra, crippled by sanctions

an international rail terminal, are corroded with weeds.

The great sluggish waterway of the Shatt al-Arab drifts past the hulks tied up on the quays. Here is the Yasmine, a trawler under whose black paint it is still possible to read the words "Lord Shackleton, Port Stanley, FI (Falkland Islands)"; and there the Wisteria, all 6,742-

Who set fire to her, I ask three Iraqi officials on the quay? "An Iranian missile hit it in 1981," one of them replies. But his friend mutters in Arabic: "Tell him it was the Americans." Then they all chorus: "It was the Americans!"

Basra lives on lies. If only the Iranians hadn't attacked Iraq and closed the river in 1980 (it was the Iraqis who invaded Iran). If only the UN had not slapped sanctions on Iraq after the Iran-Iraq war (forget the little matter of Kuwait in 1990). Even the ships have changed their names in embarrassment. The supply ship Atco Sara, according to a half-erased name, used to be the Pacific Prospector of Illinois and, before that, the Northern Builder.

Behind us, the marshalling yards are filled with long freight trains, massive grey wagons hooked up to leave on a journey that should have started in 1980, the tracks now entangled with weeds and bushes. Mr al-Imara strides along the docks. "If it wasn't for sanctions, dredged and running," he says.

It is an odd affliction that now besets Iraq's bureaucracy. Tutored to boast of all that is best publicise all that is worst. It must be an awfully difficult transition. might come down from Baghdad quotes a work of his called Confrontation:

"When you shoot with a bullet from anywhere,

The bullet will head straight for my chest;

Because the events through

which we have passed Have made my chest mound.

Imara's rather diminutive chest and laugh politely. Whose bulpoet referring to? Surely not those which scar the façade of Basra's central police station, still a gutted marble shell beside one of the city's fetid canals. Certainly not those which smashed into the burning govemorate building during the same 1991 uprising by Basra's Shiite Muslim majority. And not the bullets which were fired into the city's police cars. On the grainy old television in our hotel room, President Saddam Hussein is seated before his Revolutionary Command Council, making a joke at which his uniformed courtiers guffaw,

And we look at Mr al-

The Corniche of Martyrs corrects any misapprehensions about the enemy. For along the west bank of the Shatt al-Arab, below the dank portals of the Basra Sheraton hotel, stand the dead heroes of President Saddam's "Quadassiyeh" war, the chosen two dozen Iraqi soldiers - out of perhaps half a million - whose death will not have been in vain. Each man, modelled from photographs, points across the muddy waterway towards the precise location on the war front, inside Iran, at which he died during a war which President Saddam named after Trag's ancient victory over the Persians.

The soldiers, three times life-size, are identified by name, we would have this port along with a colossus down the bank representing General Adnan Khairallah, one of the greatest of all Saddam's military leaders. He stands facing his about Iraq, they now have to cannon-fodder, right arm raised in bonour of their courage; though we must spare a thought For who knows when the orders for the enormously popular general, who died "tragically," to reverse the process yet again? in a helicopter crash not long af-Mr al-Imara says he is a poet as ter the war ended. Below these well as being "foreign relations statues, the street urchins hawk adviser" to Basra port. And he nuts parcelled in old newspaper at eight pence a package.

They are as far as they can get from the food chain, at the furthest comer of Iraq, clamped between Iran's suspicions to the east and Kuwait's hatred to the south, dominated by rusting ships and the towering dead. What would Mr Ward and Mr Bennett make of all this?

Money pours in for child war victims

By Amanda Kelly

A WEEK has gone by since Robert Fisk began his reports on the plight of Iraq's children and The Independent's appeal has already raised nearly £10,000. The money is going to help children struck down by leukaemia because of weapons used during the Gulf War. Many are dying because of a lack of medicines and it is towards importing these cancer-treating drugs that your donations will go.

Officials of the UN sanctions committee and the British government have said authorisation for medicines of this kind could be issued with minimum delay. Every application for export of medicines must be separately approved by the Department of Health, the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry.

We have called on Care International and Medical Aid for Iraqi Children to help oversee their procurement and delivery from start to finish. Both groups are already working in Iraq.

Care International's Lockton Morrissey, who is based in Iraq, explained the path our consignment will take once it is shipped into Jordan. "The goods will come into Aquaba port where they will be tested by the ministry of health to make sure they are what we say they are. Because of the no-fly restrictions on Iraq we E14 5BT.



then have to transport the drugs by road, in refrigerated trucks.

"When a delivery gets to the Iraqi border we have to present documentation to show that it is authorised under the sanctions. After further checks in Iraq, it will carry on to the ministry of health in Baghdad and be checked again. It will then be released

to us to distribute." The drugs will be administered by well-qualified doctors to those who most need them, Professor Soad Tabaqchali, medical director of Medical Aid, said: "The capability of the Iraqi doctors is not in question. Most of them have been trained in Britain and are very highly qualified. But sanctions have left them in the impossible position of having nothing to treat their

patients with. The help of Independent readers will allow these doctors to save lives that would otherwise be lost.

Please send cheques, made out to The Independent Iraq Appeal to PO Box No 6870. 1 Canada Square, London.

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Army on alert for Suharto's re-election

By Richard Lloyd Parry in Jakarta

PRESIDENT Suharto will be re-elected today as Indonesia's unchallenged leader for a seventh consecutive term, against a backdrop of student protests and economic confusion.

There were protests in at least three cities in the central island of Java yesterday, al-

Jakarta, ended peacefully and were confined to the university campus.

The stand-off between the government and the International Monetary Fund over the IMF's proposed rescue package for Indonesia's economy generated another choppy day on the currency exchanges. However, the Indonesian rupiah strengthened by the end of trading despite an earlier drop.

the Catholic Atmaiava University in Jakarta protested against Suharto's imminent reelection. Thousands of police and army reinforcements have centre of Jakarta, and in the city of Yogyakarta in Java, six stubeen arrested on Sunday after

leading a street demonstra-

Hundreds of students at the tion. In an interview with an In-University of Indonesia and at donesian magazine, the chief of the armed forces warned that uncontrolled protests could lead to the collapse of the country.

"What is clear [is-that] I been brought in to patrol the do not want this nation to break up because of the acts of irresponsible peodents were reported to have ple," said General Wiranto. "If it is allowed to go in the direction they want, the situation

ta at 10,800/11,100 to the US dollar, after losing 11 per cent of its value in the morning. The financial turmoil followed suggestions by President Suharto that his government may abandon the IMF's \$43bn (£27bn) rescue programme for Indonesia. The president is angry over the IMF's decision to delay next week's instalment of

\$3bn. Indonesia's foreign min-The rupiah closed in Jakar- ster, Ali Alatas, later denied that the government intended to abandon the plan, but another senior politician was quoted in the Indonesian Observer as warning that any IMF attempts to "humiliate" the

> country will be rejected. This morning's expected announcement by the People's Consultative Assembly (MPA) of the re-election of President

which dissent was scrupulously filtered out.

Of the 1,000 assembly members, 400 are appointed directly by President Suharto. Most of the remaining 600 are members of his Golkar Party. Even members of Indonesia's so-called opposition must be approved by the government, which has used its powers to ex-

Subarto follows 10 days of rit- clude anyone who might offer ualistic deliberations from a challenge to the president. Subarto, together with his chosen vice-president, the former technology minister, B J Habibie, are the only candidates. To eliminate any possibility of dissent, the ruling party has warned members of the assembly that "interruptions" to the re-election ceremony will not be tolerated.

Battle looms, page 18

Four years on, and black still rarely meets white

THE sound of a saxophone drifts sexily down 7th Street heralding another Saturday night's jazz at the chic Bass Line club in Melville, one of Johannesburg's white suburbs.

At the rather garish Red Barrel near by, hundreds of teenagers - almost all white - are giving their all to the karaoke machine. But the candlelit Bass Line, as any humble jazz fan will tell vou, attracts a more discerning crowd. The club also boasts a rare Johannesburg phenomenon: a genuine, real Mc-Coy. racially mixed crowd.

When I say mixed, there are qualifications. There are blacks and whites in the same room but not often at the same tables. It is rather like those Venn diagrams in school maths where the circles never intersect because

they have nothing in common. Still, it is a remarkable sight in a city where most people only meet "the other" at work. Afterhours, they generally head back to the old apartheid-era territories; blacks wait in long queues to be stuffed into minibuses bound for outlying townships while whites drive home to the plush northern suburbs. The most terrible shame is that Johannesburg city centre - considered by everyone as dangerous after dark - provides

no neutral ground for socialising. The enduring divisions are a source of deep frustration to outsiders. They rob life in South Atrica of a great deal of its richness, for foreigners are not a whiff of togetherness, exempt from the racial pigeonholing. In the quest for forecast, The cops were a little to play up Scottishness, femaleness or your upbringing on the council estate. Apartheid has obliterated interest in any form of discrimination or disadvantage other than that based on race. "You're just another rich white South African to me," was the way one black official bluntly put it.

10'BURG DIARY



Imagine, then, the sheer relief of the Base Line. The concern is that four years after democratic elections there are still so few places like it.

If music can act as a social glue, sport, too, retains a lit-Lile of its adhesive potential, although nothing like the power naïvely invested in it in those early heady days of the new democracy. White South Africans still speak about black preference for soccer and white for rughy as if it were in the genes: and they use the dichotomy to explain the continuing divisions among pupils in some schools.

But at the local Holiday Inn last weekend South Africa's game with Egypt in the final of the African Nations Cup brought blacks and whites together. There was a touch of the old Venn diagram about the scating arrangements in the bar but never mind; there was

Trouble after the match was common ground it rarely helps nervous after the New Year celebrations in run-down inner-city Hillbrow, where residents welcomed in 1998 by throwing refrigerators from sixth-floor windows. But despite the 2-0 defeat there was no trouble. Instead thousands of fans - black and white - went to the airport to welcome the boys back with Jeho Sono, the caretaker coach, who

spiced up proceedings by re-vealing he had left the team for two days during the Burkina Faso tournament to return home to consult a witchdoctor and his an-

cestors about the team's chances. It is hard to say whether that affected his popularity but the debate about whether Sono should stay on as coach has raged all week. Blacks inundated radio chat shows normally dominated by white callers: soccer has generated a rare burst of public cohesion.

ut sport's limitations as B national healer became clear yesterday when bitterness over the continuing 'whiteness" of South African rugby came to the Pretoria High Court. President Nelson Mandela took the advice of his lawyers and delayed his appearance in court, where he was to face questions about an official investigation into racism in rugby. The South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu), which brought the case, is refusing to co-operate with the government inquiry into its finances and management.

It is far from the euphoric day when President Mandela donned the Springbok jersey, the detested symbol of white domination, in the spirit of reconciliation. Since then relations between the government and Louis Luyt, Sarfu's president, have degenerated dramatically. Sports minister Steve Tshwete says that while enemies to reform hirk everywhere, nowhere are they more entrenched than at

Rugby is accused of doing nothing to encourage black talent or to darken the collective complexion of the national team. Cricket has come in for similar criticisms. A year away from the second national elections many South Africans are growing tired of the slow pace of social change.



Dancing queen: Cheryl Carolus, the new High Commissioner in London

South Africa's whirlwind hits town

By Job Rabkin

THE first black woman to represent South Africa in Britain pledged to let the winds of change blow through the colonial splendour of London's South Africa House, and to give the diplomatic cocktail circuit a wide berth.

Cheryl Carolus, 40, who arrived in London last week to take up the post of High Commissioner, said: "It's a myth that diplomats lie through their teeth, but I will call a spade a spade and not a garden implement."

Promising to spend her time getting to know the British people and not just other diplomats, she added: "If 70 per cent of my time is spent with colleagues from the diplomatic world, then there must be something wrong."

Ms Carolus's track record scarcely reads like the CV of a career diplomat. She became politically involved as a schoolgirl in Cape Town and became an important figure in the United Democratic Movement, the civil rights movement that was in the forefront of the struggle against apartheid in the Eighties. "I didn't get involved in politics, politics got involved with me." she says. "The only way to reclaim your dignity was to resist the dehumanisation apartheid imposed on you."

After becoming a member of the .. ANC national executive and a favourite of Nelson Mandela, she turned down an offer of a cabinet position, choosing instead to run the ANC's party machinery as general secretary.

For all the Marxist rhetoric of her early career, she and her husband Graeme Bloch will cut far from earnest figures. "They will be up to dawn, dancing the night away," one friend was quoted as saying on hearing of the appointment.

Last week, Ms Carolus suggested she would be "probably the worst diplomat in the world".

Britain has been warned.

Jordan and Israel repair Mossad row

By Patrick Cockburn $\sigma_{n+2} \exp i \theta \ln t \Delta$

ISRAEL and Jordan are mending fences six months after Mossad, the Israeli foreign intelligence agency, infuriated King Hussein by trying to kill an official of a militant Islamic organisation in the streets of Amman, the Jordanian capital, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli infrastructure minister, had talks about greater co-operation with King Hussein in Jordan

over the weekend and Crown

Prince Hassan will see Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, in Israel today, After his meeting General Sharon said: "The problem has gone." Jordan feels squeezed beaween a resurgent Iraq to the east and, to the west, Mr Netanyahu, who does not want to implement the Oslo accords with the Palestinians. It has gained tew benefits from the peace treaty signed with Israel

in 1994. But King Hussein also

broke publicly with Iraq in

1995 when he received Gener-

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Ariel Sharon: The problem has gone

al Hussein Kamel, the son-inlaw of Saddam Hussein, who fled to Amman.

The largest of the joint projects discussed was the \$5bn 'Red-Dead Canal" through the desert from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. The 120 mile-long canal would harness hydroelectric power to desalinate

water, helping to prevent any conflict over scarce water supplies and save the Dead Sea from gradual evaporation at current rates of inflow. Relations between Jordan

and Israel deteriorated after the

election of Mr Netanyahu in

1996. King Hussein expressed

deep distrust for the Israeli premier and has formed a better personal understanding with General Sharon. Relations plummeted when Mossad tried to kill Khalid Meshal, a member the Islamic militant organisation, with poison gas last September. The

Mossad agents were captured

and exchanged for the jailed

Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmed In the aftermath of the affair. King Hussein reportedly insisted that Israel sack Danny Yatom, the head of Mossad, before ties could improve. He was replaced last week by Efraim Halevy, a former Mossad deputy chief who was involved

treaty with Jordan in 1994. Egypt, the only other Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel, continues to have frosty relations with Mr Netan-

with the negotiation of a peace

In an interview, President Hosni Mubarak accuses him of turning the world upside down and failing to keep his promises on Middle East peace. He told the Israeli daily *Maari*v; "I have met with him several times and up until today all I got from him were promises. Nothing was carried out."

Ailing King Fahd of Saudi Arabia faces surgery

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd is seriously ill and might have to undergo surgery after being hospitalised in Riyadh with a gallbladder infection. An American medical team was monitoring the condition of King Fahd, who is in his mid-70s, and was preparing to remove his gall bladder if necessary, said officials. The King Faisal Specialist Hospital in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, stopped all visits and calls and barred relatives and family members from seeing the monarch. His health has been the source of much speculation since he suffered a stroke - AP, Dubai, United Arab Emirates in November 1995.

Ex-Miss USA loses sex suit

A suit by a former Miss USA against Prince Jefri of Brunei, claiming she was unknowingly recruited for a Middle Eastern sex tour, was dismissed by a Los Angeles judge. Judge Consuelo Marshall found Shannon Marketic, of Malibu, had failed to meet the necessary burden of proof and held Prince Jefri was entitled to immunity under the Foreign Sovereign Immunity Act. Ms Marketic sued Prince Jefri, his brother, the Sultan of Brunei, and the "talent agency" that allegedly recruited her for "promotional" work in Brunei. She said she had to dance nightly and was subjected to sexual advances.

- Tim Comwell, Los Angeles

Mayoress guilty of race hate

A French appeal court upheld a three-month suspended sentence on a far-right politician who made racist, anti-immigrant remarks. Catherine Megret, National Front mayoress of Vitrolles, appealed after a lower court sentenced her in September and fined her 50,000 francs (£5,000). Yesterday's ruling said Megret was guilty of "inciting racial discrimination." - AP, Aix-en-Provence

School killing shocks Japan

A 13-year-old Japanese boy stabbed a classmate to death yesterday, further shocking a nation rocked by a wave of teenage crime. The boy, at a school near Tokyo, stabbed a similar-aged pupil in the chest during a break between classes. They had quarrelled over a practical joke played on the killer by the victim, police said. The Chief Cabinet Secretary, Kanezo Muraoka, used the killing to appeal for a joint effort by the government, schools, parents and local communities to deter youth

Clinton profits from death of key witness

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

THE criminal investigation into President and Mrs Clinton that began with the Whitewater land deal in Arkansas and expanded to include Mr Clinton's alleged relationship with Monica Lewinsky could turn in favour of the Clintons after the death of a key prosecution witness, James McDougal.

Mr Mcdougal, who was 57, died of a heart attack in a Texas prison hospital on Sunday while serving a three-year sentence for fraud. An Arkansas businessman, he was the architect of the money-losing Whitewater deal in which the Clintons had invested while Mr Clinton was governor of Arkansas.

Following his conviction two years ago, he had been co-operating with the inquiry launched by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, into allegations that Mr Clinton used his position as state governor to obtain an illegal loan. A long-time friend and po-

litical ally of Mr Clinton's, Mr McDougal made headlines last year when he explained his decision to co-operate with the Whitewater inquiry by saying: "I just got sick and tired of lying for the fellow [Clinton]."

The four-year-old Whitewater inquiry is not complete and Mr McDougal's death deprives Mr Starr of an important witness. Yesterday Mr Starr was with advisers, trying to assess how far his inquiry might be damaged. Last week there

was good news for Mr Starr, Jordan, a well-connected Washwhen another Whitewater player and former Arkansas governor, Jim Guy Tucker, decided to co-operate with the investigation in return for a lighter fraud sentence but the death of

Mr McDougal could more than outweigh that benefit. Any setback for the Whitewater inquiry may also affect the investigation into Mr Clinton's relationship with the former White House trainee, Monica Lewinsky. The only reason why this inquiry was entrusted to Mr Starr was the alleged involve-

ment in both cases of Vernon

ington businessman and Mr Clinton's golfing partner.

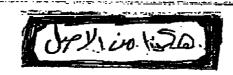
The question is whether Mr Jordan, who admits using his influence to help both a disgraced ex-Whitewater player and Ms Lewinsky to obtain private-sector jobs, was doing them a personal favour, or whether he was acting at Mr Clinton's behest to silence potentially awkward witnesses. Were the Whitewater investigation to collapse, the muchcriticised Mr Starr's right to investigate the Lewinsky cusc could be challenged.

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Muscle-buik marvel: Michelangelo's The Archers

Picture: Copyright HRH The Queen, Royal Collection, Windsor Castle

Like putty in his hands

No one could mould the male form like Michelangelo, and no one, says Tom Lubbock, has ever asked so much of the male anatomy

MICHELANGELO remains a noble and terrible creations of house, a life-source, a mould- - are creatures of an infectious maker, a measure to which no life. Between the outstretched other art quite measures up. When, for example, in the Twenties, Wyndham Lewis wanted to beat Picasso's stout vegetative imbecility would be neo-classical figures, Michelangelo was the obvious stick. The Picasso figure, he wrote, "is a beautifully executed, imposing human doll. The figures of Michelangelo, on the other hand - the most supremely

forefinger of Adam and the figure of the hurrying Jehovah there is an electric force that no able to convey.'

Ah yes, that famous invisible spark - now immortalised, and turned into a very visible Big Bang, in the credits of LWT's The South Bank Show. As for the "infectious life", though, it

Indeed, it's rather a problem for us, this sense of mighty strenuousness, the idea - in the

words of Antony Gormley, creator (and model) of the Angel of the North - that "muscular action expresses the metaphysical tension of body and soul". And name to conjure with: a power- the dramatic genius of the West I think Gormley's reservations speak for many. One may doubt whether Michelangelo's influence is one any artist today would happily catch. "Michelangelo and His Influence" is an exhibition of

doesn't appear to have infect-

ed much 20th-century art.

drawings from the Royal Collection, now showing at the Queen's Gallery. The influence displayed here doesn't extend much beyond the end of the 16th century (Michelangelo died in 1564, aged 88). We have his own drawing

anatomical studies, sketches for paintings, finished presentation pieces. We have copies, variants and departures by contemporaries or followers. It's all bodies, of course, parts or wholesand souls, if you like; predominantly male bodies and souls. But if we think of Michelan-

gelo as a kind of Frankenstein,

bringing the human creature to

bent on daring impossibility. The Resurrection, for instance, offers great opportunities. The Gospels don't describe the event itself. They treat it as a fait accompli: the grave emptv and Jesus already up and about. As artists usually picture it, it looks like a victorious act of will -- Jesus advances out of

realisation - exhilarating and

alarming - that he could do with

it through the most incredible.

twists and turns, displacements

and distensions, make it into the

most contradictory shapes.

Limbs contort this way and that

while seeming to perform con-

tinuous gestures. Bodies can

hurtle forwards while, at the

same time, appearing to hit a

brick wall. This sounds more

like an art we can relate to: a

radically ambiguous art that's

the tomb with a strong leg to the

fore, or levitates several yards

in the air above it. But in

With mastery, he could put

it what he wanted.

turbulent life with an electric Michelangelo's drawings the charge, we'd better take the act isn't clear. You can't tell if Jesus is doing it, or it's hapanalogy all the way, and see him as an artist deeply concerned pening to him, or what's hapwith the constructability and the maileableness of the human Look at The Risen Christ. In his catalogue, Paul Joannides form. His art is powered by the

coins an excellent phrase for this single figure. "He bursts from the tomb describing an arc of triumph, an all-encompassing embrace." I like that arc de triomphe. But I don't see the effect described, because the action of the figure is nearly indescribable - it's a thoroughly ambiguous articulation, combining a forward stride, a backward lurch, an outward fling

and an upward yank. The potential for triumph is there. One leg is planted firmly, vertically forward, the arms are spread in a winning gesture. But then this leg is somehow pulled sideways, which aligns it with the much less grounded other leg and the teetering torso. The left arm becomes a frantic attempt to regain balance, while the right arm, reaching straight above the head, seems to be pulled up by an invisible alien grasp. The reviving figure is disoriented and

struggling for equilibrium and

self-control among these bewildering forces.

It's odd to apply verisimilitude to a picture of an event which is, even for believers, a unique and miraculous mystery. But you could say that Michelangelo's version, by showing Jesus caught in a process that's barely comprehensible - to us or to him - is nauch nearer what it must have been like. Other terms of its glorious meaning. Michelangelo imagines how Jesus might have experienced

This is rare. With the Crucifixion, it's the normal approach. In that genre, showing and letting us share Christ's many artists. In fact, this diverging attitude towards Jesus's experience is one of the main differences between the two subjects. Crucified, he suffers bodily. Risen, he is beyond such experience - except in Michelangelo. And in another Resurrection, he is subjected to a still more sudden physical paradox. The figure seems to be both taking off and landing hard

at the same time. In his late Crucifizions,

Michelangelo finds extreme solutions. "Solutions" might be the wrong word, given that the pictures are clearly not finished. But the striking thing is that these unfinished drawings don't imply a finish. They don't look like they've been abandoned halfway to completion, or like open options another drawing could sort out. The overlaid multiple positions of the legs and torso of these crucified bodies aren't alternatives waiting to be decided. They're developed and involved together with very gen-

most unsolved bits of anatomy are the most substantiated. The effect is more than agony is a primary objective for motion, a writhing. The unfinished aspect is part of the experience conveyed. Jesus' climactic last cry, "It is finished." is permanently deferred. The drawing isn't concluded, no final bodily position is established, the undecided points are worked at and could be worked at more, so the experience goes

tle and attentive shading. The

Though flesh is fearfully exposed, this isn't sheer agony, but an endlessly sensuous metamorphosis and dissolution,

on and can't arrive at crisis.

rather Wagnerian in that way. the body flowing into and out of itself, into and out of the very paper it is drawn on. Here Michelangelo's deep interests in and doubts about the malleability of the human image reach their mortal limit.

This may be partly what Francis Bacon meant when he said Michelangelo was mixed up in his mind with Muybridge, the photographer who broke quences of split-second images. Michelangelo never draws blood, as Bacon does, but these fluid, fugitive elisions of form and substance are a clear hint towards his art.

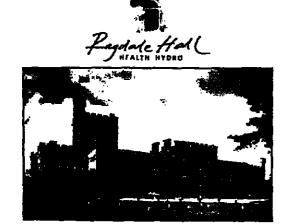
ol Rowan

Perhaps Bacon is the only modern artist to have truly taken the influence on board though we mustn't forget Michelangelo's other heirs (via Blake and Fuseli), the graphic masters of the Marvel comics. If it's a straight shot of infectious muscular life you want, there's always the mighty Thor and the Incredible Hulk to keep you going.

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If it's fame and fortune you're after, just stick around a bit

John Windsor seeks out the smiling face behind the contemporary art. world's answer to 'Kilroy was here'

young woman whose latest bid for fame comes in the form of thousands of stickers bearing her image and the slogan "I am everywhere - SR Logdon"? You can now find the stickers on lamp posts, in loos - even, as our picture shows, on an iron railing at the foot of the pyramid of Cheops in Giza, Egypt.

SR is the art world's lt-girl, famous for being famous. For the more philosophically inclined, her bid to gain fame by publicity alone - while staying

WHO IS "SR", the wide-eyed anonymous and doing little more than smile - is a send-up of the current romance between artists and the media.

> To get in on the jape, would-be SR fans can buy the stickers (£1 for 20) from vending machines at the ICA, the Whitechapel Art Gallery, the Tactical Coffee Bar in D'Arblay Street, Soho, and the Watershed, Bristol. Or you can get a stash free by post from a flat in Stepney, abode of her mysterious "controller", a fellow

artist of the opposite sex. Over the past nine months,



20,000 stickers have made SR probably the most stuck-up young woman in the contemporary art world. And, as if that wasn't exposure enough, SR has taken out full-page self-advertisements in four trendy style mags - i-D, Dazed and Confused. Don't Tell It and blog.

There are also SR carrier bags and an SR promo sheet that declares enigonatically: "A new artist for a new generation". It goes on, in what could be a parody of pretentious artspeak, or simply sheer pretentiousness: "She is re-

defining the self-portrait for the 1990s, art, fashion, advertising, image, identity, ego. This is the self-portrait as selfpromotion. This is art in the remix. This is the new label to be seen with." Well, I never ...

You can, if you know the right people, be seen with SR She presided at a book promotion at Waterstone's in Charing Cross Road last year. They gave her a window display and a table header, and a highly collectable limited edition of 1,000 promo cards was distributed to fans and be-

mused shoppers. The book? She promoted every book in the store - and never even

asked for a fee. Although she won't say who she is, SR does talk. Well-wishers can telephone her or write to her. She says things like: "Art always looks like art" and "I'd like to go to Morocco".

Fame? "Yes, I'd like that, It would be a part of what my art is about. Fame would enable me to say what I really want to say." (Things like "I'd like to go to Morocco", I suppose.) Fortune? She thinks she pyramids

Sticky situation: One of SR's stickers (below) and in the shadow of the

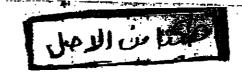


could handle that, too. After all, those stickers and promo cards are not cheap to print.

There'll be a book, of course. It will contain strapshots of stickers stuck in unusual places throughout the world, sent in by fans committed to making her the world's most fu-

mous anonymity. SR, whoever she is, will enjoy promoting that.

Stickers and further information from: SR, Flat 6, 19 Carell Street, Stepney, London El 2BP (tel: 0171-790 3331)



MINIS ER of Arts in the Wil- Pioneer Health Centre at Peckson an Callaghan govern- ham I recollect a conversation ments, lack Donaldson was one of heir many, albeit un-Moser, the said yesterday:

Jack was passionate lover of the arts, especially music, especially opera. Wen he had a chance to do omethingo support them, he translated his resion into practical action with effective enthusiasm as well as enjoymer. He was a wonderful colleague

As one of the members of the Parlimentary Labour Party Arts Coup in the 1970s I can record a first hand that when my Compons colleagues and I made anippointment with Donaldson a his office to discuss issues o concern, we came away wit the unanimous feelly listening, more than politely, to the pents we were making; and that ie really cared about the arts for which he was responsile.

It cannot be said of all ministers in ill governments that they really personally care about their phemeral responsibilities. Dinaldson cared, not for his cwa career, but passionately about advancing the interests of the arts and in particular the young men and women wo were seeking a livelihood h the arts.

He washorn John Donaldson in 19th into the family of the Rev S. Donaldson, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridg, and Lady Albinia, nce Hobat-Hampden, a scion of the Ears of Bucking-hamshire Hi early childhood was spent in the ambience of Eton, where 0 years later he himself was togo to school, and of Magdalen, where his father was, it was said, the first Master to pall that famous college out of the midieval doldrums.

Donaldso himself went not to his fathers college but to Trinity, Campridge, where he took first clas honours in Part I of the Most Sciences Tripos and subsequently in the Law Tripos. On graluation in 1935,

in which I opined to him, as a fellow Old Etonian, that the sting, successes. No man alive Eton Mission had too much of is in a letter position to pass a condescending element. Dojudgement than Sir Claus naldson, normally the most equable of men, rounded on me and, almost vituperatively, told me that he owed a great deal to his experience in Peckham - an experience which, combined with working for a year as a truck driver, set the course of his life.

During the Second World War Donaldson served with the Sappers, and came into contact with the young Denis Healey, who was to be his lifelong friend. It was his friendship with Healey, Roy Jenkins and Dick Crossman, and - through farming - with Jim Callaghan, that commended Donaldson ing that he minister was real- to the Labour leadership. In his diary entry for 24 November 1965 Crossman records:

In the evening after a meeting of the Liaison Committee, which is now running smoothly in the absence of George Wigg, I was off to Covent Garden. I got there too late for the overture to Figuro but we had an enormously enjoyable time with Jack and Frankie Donaldson, sitting in the Royal Box and having our dinner in Royal Box and having our dinner in the Royal Drawing Room behind the scenes. It was only marred by the fact that I had to go back to the House at 11 o clock to see the Rhodesia Or-ders in Council through until 1.30 in the morning.

As his Parliamentary Private Secretary I remember that Crossman's mind was far more on the marvellous night he had had with the Donaldsons than on Ian Smith.

On Wednesday 8 December 1965:

That night Anne and I gave the Donaktsons dinner in exchange for their splendid hospitality... at Covent Garden. There we were in the Strangers' Dining Room, with George Wigg sitting at the next table to us. The Donaldsons are old Gaitskellites but I think they found our company tolerable and certainly I found them extremely pleasant. She, Frankie, is the daughter of Freddy Lonsdale, the famous playwright, and is herself a remarkable writer. Her book on the Marconi Scandal, which is just out, is one of the best bits of political vriting I know.

The most important decision



Donaldson in 1976: translated passion into action

Edward VIII and her study of the Marconi Scandal which so entranced Crossman.

Having had a good war and being appointed OBE in 1943. he returned to farming, first in Gloucestershire, then in Buckinghamshire. In 1961 he became Honorary Secretary of the National Association of Discharged Prisoners Aid Societies and from 1963 to 1969 he was chairman of the Board of Visitors for Grendon Prison (a psychiatric prison with accommodation for tions which are honestly given some 300 immates). From 1966 to him by the recruiting officer, to 1974 he was the chairman of who signs on for nine or 12 years the National Association for the from the age of 18. Then, if lat-Care and Resettlement of Of- er he falls out of love with his fenders. As much as any man be transformed attitudes towards

Harold Wilson in 1967, as Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge. In enthusiasm. 1969 the Go Eton Mission Boys' Club in was to marry Frances - the au- him chairman of the committee, that there was nothing truly vol-Hackney, cal London, he went ther of several books on farm- which reported in 1970, on Boy untary about such a situation. would like to come home to the doughters); died London 8 March to work for hree years at the ing, together with the life of her Entrance and Young Service. It was compulsion applied ar- Labour Party.

father, a memoir of Evelyn men in the Armed Forces. His Waugh, a superb biography of colleagues included Jimmy Hill, then head of sport at London Weekend Television, Admiral Sir Desmond Dreyer and Alan Thompson, former MP for Dunfermline Boroughs, and now Professor Emeritus of Edinburgh University, who told me

of Donaldson's considerable

skill as a chairman. He saw the system being at its least acceptable in the case of the young boy who joins up at 1512 or 16, full of enthusiasm, unwilling to listen to the cauchosen profession, or perhaps into love with a girl who wants the obligations of society to- to have him with her, he finds wards those who had been that he cannot adjust to the new situation by giving reasonable He was sent to the Lords by notice and leaving, but is stuck with the result of his 16-year-old

bitrarily and selectively to those who have made the decision, before the law regards them as capable of entering into a responsible contract. Donaldson saw it as indefensible and the whole basis of recruitment improved as a result of his report.

From 1968 to 1974 he was Chairman of the National Committee of Family Service Units and from 1972 to 1974 of the Economical Development Committee for the Hotel and Catering Industry, to which he gave his experience as a director of the British Sugar Corporation from 1966 to 1974. In March 1974 Harold Wilson gave him ministerial responsbility in Northern Ireland. He embraced the concept of power sharing.

The ethos of the Labour Party as it was in the early 1980s was not congenial to Donaldson and in 1981 he joined the SDP. and, seven years later, the Liberal Democrats. On the last occasion when I talked to him he

Alex Kramer

of Composers, Authors and cer. Jo Stafford and the Pied Publishers (Ascap), the powerful performing rights organisation whose members included most of America's top songwriters, went on strike for higher royalties.

The strike, which kept all Ascap music off American radio for nearly a year, led to the formation of Broadcast Music, Inc (BMI), a rival licensing agency using many unknown songwriters. One of those unknowns was a 38-year old Canadian named Alex Kramer. And so began a career that produced "Far Away Places", "Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens". "Comme Ci, Comme Ça", "It's Love, Love, Love", "Candy", and more than 125 other songs.

Kramer was born in Montreal, and studied at the city's McGill Conservatory of Music. At 17, he began providing piano accompaniment for silent films, later forming his own dance band, which made many broadcasts and played at restaurants and hotels all over Canada. He took a postgraduate course in Paris before coming to New York in 1938 to act as vocal coach for a music school. Taking advanced vocal training at the school was Kramer's future wife, an attractive band singer named Joan Whitney. She showed such a talent for composition that they began writing songs together, but publishers proved indifferent to their work. When the 1941 strike swept all Ascap songs from the airwaves, Kramer and Whitney were signed by BMI.

In collaboration with the lyricist Hy Zaret, they came up with "High on a Windy Hill" (1941), which became a bestselling single for Jimmy Dorsey, and for the bands of Sammy Kaye, Vaughan Monroe and Gene Krupa. Krupa also recorded the threesome's "It All Comes Back to Me Now" (1941), as did the bands of Eddy Duchin, Ted Weems and

Hal Kemp. The film Stars on Parade should have been called "Misnomers of 1944" because of the . conspicuous absence of a single star in its cast. It did, however introduce Kramer, Whitney and Mack David's "It's Love, Love, Love", which went on to become a best-selling record for

the Guy Lombardo orchestra. Despite a sub-standard ack David lyric ("understands gave the impression that he Lonsdole (died 1994; one son, two me" is hardly an ideal rhyme for 1903; married Joan Whitney (died "candy"), Kramer and Whitney 1990; one son); died Fairfield,

IN 1941, the American Society "Candy" (1945). Johnny Mer-Pipers made it a No 1 record. and the Four King Sisters and Dinah Shore also had

successful versions. Without Mack David, the Kramers gave the Andrews Sisters a hit in 1946 with the calypso number "Money is the Root of All Evil (take it away. take it away, take it away!)"

Nineteen forty-seven saw the founding of the music publishing firm of Kramer-Whitney, Inc. Among their hits as publisher/composers were "Love Somebody" (1947), which Doris Day recorded with Buddy Clark, and "That's the Beginning of the End" (1947), which both Benny Goodman and Perry Como recorded. The Kramers also wrote and published "Far Away Places" (1948), which gave Top Ten hits to Como, Bing Crosby, Dinah Shore, Margaret Whiting. Vic Damone and Kate Smith. The song appeared for 19 weeks on America's Your Hit Purade radio show, remaining in the No 1 position for three of those weeks. Unlike most of their contemporaries, Kramer and Whitney survived the coming of the rock era; their "No Other Arms, No Other Lips" (1959) was a hit for the Chordettes.

Everything was grist to the Kramers' musical mill: their ballad "No Man is an Island" (1950) was derived from John Donne, "Comme Ci, Comme Ça" (1949) was based on a French melody by Bruno Coquatrix, and the poignant "My Sister and 1" (1941) took its utle from a book by Dirk van der Heide, who had fled to America with his sister after the German occupation of Holland. "Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens" (1950), a hit for Louis Jordan, was based on an old joke.

In 1991 "Chickens" was included when songs associated with Jordan became the basis for Clarke Peters's awardwinning show Fire Guys Named Moe. Then 88 years old, Kramer, whose wife Joan had died the previous year, took great pleasure in the fact that a song of theirs was one of the highlights of that joyous musical.

Dick Vosburgh

Alex Charles Kramer, lyricist, composer, pianist, conductor, publisher. Montreal Canada 30 May had one of their biggest hits with Connecticut 10 February 1998.

Athol Rowan



IMMEDIATELY after the Secand World Var. when off-spin was still a peent force in Test cricket, the three best off-break howlers wel Jim Laker of when the Currie Cup competi-England, Ia Johnson of Austion resumed in 1946 he shuf-

South Africa. Laker, by taking fortified by an iron brace. 19 wickets in one Test in 1956, became a legend; Johnson went on to captain Australia and become secretary of the Auswas a hero.

During the war, as an 18year-old volunteer he had joined the Transvaal Scottish and was taken prisoner at Toto join the South African Air as having the best defence. Force and while on an officers' training course suffered a severe knee injury from an exploding mortar bomb. He refused to surrender a cricket career and

He was successful enough to be chosen for South Africa's tour of England in 1947, a summer of unending sunshine and tralian Cricket Board; Rowan flat pitches, and although he was hammered in the Tests, 12 wickets at an average of 59, he finished the leading wicket-taker (102) and exercised the critics with his success against Len bruk, Escaping, he volunteered Hutton, the batsman regarded

He and his brother Eric, the opening batsman and often a member of his leg trap, appeared together in 10 Tests but Athol's Test career was necessarily short, bowling, as he often did, in pain. He had a tall,

tralia and Athol Rowan of fied up to bowl, his damaged leg high action with an unusual grip, matches but be did tour England as the two most difficult off- all the five wickets that fell; he took next ball but England won comspinning off the index finger and with the 1951 South Africans, spinners to counter. Many. only one. holding the ball with the seam upright, rather than across, in the traditional manner of spinners. He thus tended to be a lit-

tle quicker through the air than many of his type with extra bounce, and his control of the seam meant his "arm ball" was more difficult to pick. He took 24 wickets against England in their 1948-49 tour of the then Dominion and reached

his apogee with the visit of Australia a year later. Bowling for Transvaal he took 15 wickets in

the match, for 68, his first innings

figures reading 9-19 in 15.4

overs. A cartilage operation pre-

taking 5-68 in England's second innings of the first Test.

He had an affable, easygoing temperament, ideal for the Rowan's retirement, described sometimes heartbreaking task of bowling spin, but at the age of 30 his physical handicap meant he had to retire with 54 wickets from his 15 Tests at an average of 38 and a score of invisible medal ribbons for bravery.

All the great batsmen of his day held him in the highest regard. He took Hutton's wicket 11 times, more often than Ray Lindwall, thus promoting a theory that Hutton was susceptible to off-break bowling. Hutton, in vented his playing in the Test turn, regarded him and Laker

would argue that Rowan had the edge on good pitches.

From 1975 to 1980 Jack Do-

naldson was the enormously

well-loved President of the Roy-

al Society for Protection of

Birds, having had four years' ex-

perience on the board of the

British Federation of Zoos.

Discussion of ornithology was

a delight with someone who had

an all-round knowledge of the

world which is associated in

folklore with Leonardo da

john George Stuart Donaldson,

farmer and politicion: born Kings-

bridge, Devon 9 October 1907: OBE

1943; director, Royal Opera House,

Covent Garden 1959-74: director.

Sadlers Wells 1962-74; Chairman,

National Association for the Care and

Resettlement of Offenders 1966-74;

created 1967 Baron Donaldson of

Kingsbridge; Chairman, Consumer

Council 1968-71; Parliamentary

Under-Secretary of State, Northern

Ireland Office 1974-76: President.

RSPB 1975-80; Minister for the Arts

1976-79: married 1935 Frances

Tam Dalyell

Vinci

him as "the finest off-break bowler in the world": He played substantially less than 188 first-class matches in which the knee injury that was to eventually end his

with every ball he bowled.

test in 1947: in an atmosphere like a steam cham-ber he bowled unrelieved for three and a half hours on that batsman's

John Arlott, writing on

career was always both a physical handicap and a psychological brake which he had consciously to override And of his bowling in the Leeds

wicket to yield only 89 runs to Hut-ton, Washbrook, Charlie Barnett, Bill Edrich and Compton . . . he earned

Rowan had endured seven

when he made his last tour in 1951. According to Arlott, he thought he would never get past the second Test, at Lord's, but by packing his knee in a parcel of cotton wool and plaster he made it to the last, at the Oval, where he ensured his place in history when Hutton, sweeping, lobbed up the ball and then swatted at the ball, thinking it might fall on his stumps, as Russell Endean moved round to take the catch, Hutton became the only Test batsman to be given out for obstructing the field.

fortably, Rowan dragging himself off the field "alone and quietly". operations on knee and leg saying to Arlott as he passed: "I shall never play again."

He would have taken great satisfaction from the fact that he was succeeded by South Africa's greatest off-spinner. Hugh "Toey" Tayfield, as South African cricket entered an era of supremacy that would have made them world champions but for the baleful advance of apartheid and the sanctions that followed.

Athal Rowan, cricketer: born johannesburg 7 February 1921; died Somerset West, South Africa 21 Feb-Rowan dismissed Peter May ruory 1998.

BILTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

CORNER/BCLE: On 4 March 1998 to Andrew hil Helen, a daughter, I has Orner Cutlin, a sater for

LIDDELL: 1741 March to Chlod (née Rettlin) and David, a daughter, Plucie Canta, a ceter for Freya and

DEATHS

DEATHS
CAUDWELL Traggedly, in a sailing headent. That Williams, aged 30 years, beloud am of Pam and Bill, of Hollowite. St Mary's Lane, I with Lineladare, lowing brother of lealth and lettion, dear grandson of vi and Bill halknet. Service Saturday 14 Mary at St James Church, Louth Hart addowed by private but if 14 mile paces only picase, but if 30 despress on The Kettle Domainen Account." Lettle Ltd, 10 Kidgate, Louth, Lakalashine LN11 9BX, where the hal am will be forwarded to Annuly International. where the fall sum with the forwards of the Annual International.

WELDON FARLE: Aruba Joyce, 13:27 februry Lived and minord by all the km. Request 13 March, florospecials story, at 11am.

ROYAL ENCAGEMENTS

Birthdays

Aircy, former Chairman, Board of Inland Revenue, 72; Sir Robert Bellinger, former Lord Mayor of London, 88; Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burnett, 85; Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 51; Baroness Falkender, former Pri-51; Baroness Faikender, former Frivate and Political Secretary to Lord Wilson of Rievault, 66; Mr David Fall, ambassador to Vietnam, 50; Mr Fou Ts'ong, pianist, 64; Sir Angus Fraser, former chairman of the Republic Customs and Errise. 70: Fraser. Iormer casuman of the Board of Customs and Excise, 70; Dame Margaret Fry, political or-ganiser, 67; Mr Barry Gardiner MP, 41; Rear-Admiral Sir John Garnier, etta Equerry to the Queen, 64; Sir Estra Equerry to the Queen, 64; Sir Samuel Goldman, former senior civ-it servant, 86; Sir Charles Hardie, chartered accomtant, 88; Mr Terry Holmes, Weish rugby player, 41; Mr Hugh Johnson, wine connoisseur, 59; General Sir John Learmont, former Ouarter Master General, Ministry of Defence, 64; Mr Anthony Leonard, Chief Constable, Humberside, 59; Lord Montague of Oxford, chairman Montague Multinational Ltd, 66; Mr Graeme Odgers, former Chair-man, Monopolies and Mergers Com-mission, 64; Sir Michael Straker, former chairman, Northumbrian Water, 70; Mr Peter Wormald, former Registrar General for England and Wales, 62

Anniversaries Births: Henry Watson Fowler, author

Prince Edward, 34; Sir Lawrence of English Usage, 1858. Deaths: Jan Garrigue Masaryk, statesman, com-mitted suicide 1948. On this day: D.W. Griffith's film In Old Califor-nia was released – the first to be made in Hollywood, 1910; Sir Oswald Mosley was expelled from the Labour Party, 1931; James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of Martin Luther King, 1969. Today is Commonwealth Day and the Feast Day of St. Anastasia Patricia, St Attalas, St Codratus and Others, St Drocto or Drotte, St Hymelin, St John Ogilvie, St Kessog, St Macarius of Jerusalem and St Simplicius, pope.

Lectures

Gresham College (Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1): Professor Ian Stew art: "Queen Dido's Hide", 5_30pm. RIBA (66 Portland Place, London W1): Enric Miralles, "On Restoring".

James Lees-Milne

The memorial service for James Lees-Milne will be held on Thursday 12 March at the Grosvenor Chape South Andley Street, London WL, at 11.30am, and not 11am as previous-

Rane attends a concert in said of the Pruntin Cose International Marie Seminars, at Contin & Co., Strawd London WCJ. Changing of the Guard

LAW REPORT: 10 MARCH 1998

Building society's claims would be struck out

Society v Mander Hadley & Co; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Milieux, Lord Justice Schiemann and Sir Brian Neff) 27 February 1998 PROTECTIVE writs issued

by a building society against solicitors' firms shortly before the expiry of the limitation period. claiming indemnity or contribution in respect of contingent claims which had not been, and might never be, made against the building society would be struck out.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the defendant firm of solicitors against the dismissal of its application to strike out 382 claims against it by the plaintiff building society unless it served a fully particularised statement of claim in respect of each claim, the indge having instead made an

til the conclusion of certain Andrew Sutcliffe (Reynolds Porter

Chamberlain) for the defendants, Andrew Hochhauser QC and Vernon Flynn (Eversheds, Birmingham) for the building society.

in the late 1980s the building society had financed approximately 2,100 home income plans which had been promoted by independent financial advisers and sold to private further 47 writs against 382 home owners. The rise in interest rates and collapse in ceruing cases in which the property values in the early 1990s had destroyed the via- made or notified any claim bility of many of the plans, against the building society, and causing loss to a large number might never do so. of home owners.

tion Scheme, as assignee of speedy resolution of the other claims which had been made by order on the building society's home owners against an ties had been identified and the might have caused loss to a par-substituted. application staying all further insovent financial adviser, had building society's claims fully ticular client, who might bring

proceedings in the claims un- brought proceedings against the building society. In each case the building society had brought claims for indemnity or contribution from the solicitors who had undertaken the conveyancing on its behalf. It had brought 710 fully pleaded claims against 163 firms. Of Lord Justice Millett said that those, 14 lead cases had been selected and were currently bees having been stayed pending

their determination. The appeal concerned a firms of solicitors, all con-

The outcome of the lead The Investors Compensa- cases would facilitate the stayed actions where the par-

cerned it wished to pursue, nor enable it to plead them. There was no true compar

ison between the stayed actions process to bring proceedings and those with which the present appeal was concerned. From the building society's ing heard, the remaining caspoint of view, the appeal was aware of any valid basis for its concerned with the most convenient way of dealing with a be struck out as a matter of number of potential claims, course in such circumstances. From the point of view of the Why should it make a differfirms of solicitors, however, there was only one case, namehome owners had not to date ly that which had been brought the courts to extend the limiagainst it. It had been charged with negligence and was obliged to report the matter to its a time when the plaintiff was insurers. It had, however, only unaware of any valid basis for been told that it might have been negligent in some unspecified respect; that if so it

pleaded, but would not assist a claim against the building sothe building society in identi- ciety at some time in the future; fying which of the claims with and that if such a claim were which the appeal was con- to be successful the building society would claim to be

indemnified by the firm. It was an abuse of the when there was no present intention of prosecuting them and when the plaintiff was unclaim. An individual writ would ence that there were several hundred of them? It was not for tation period in hard cases by permitting writs to be issued at the claim. The judge's order would be set aside and the order sought by the defendant

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

Smokers spend £32m a year on nicotine substitutes, but do they really work? Milly Jenkins reports

of Britain's 12 million smokers will pause when they see the "Ready, Steady, Stop" posters, and for one melancholy moment refills costing £19.95 a week. think about how they really ought to stop. Eleven million of them will snap out of it, shrugging the thought off with a reassurone million of them, the ones who have really had enough, will go for it.

Most of them will depend on will power, but about a quarter will use some form of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) gum, patches, nasal sprays or the "fashionable" new inhalators, which look like plastic cigarette-holders - some of the guests at last month's Brit Awards were spotted having a drag on hand-painted inhalators.

Whether they got through the night without succumbing to the real thing is another question. The depressing truth is that although these products do increase your chances of giving up, the success rate is low. Pharmacia & Upjohn, the makers of the market leader Nicorette, say using NRT "typically doubles or triples the success rates when compared to those smokers who quit using will power alone". What the trials show is that people using will power have a success rate of 1-3 per cent for every quit attempt, while those using NRT have a 5-10 per cent chance of stopping.

people who join specialist smoking clinics, as well as using NRT, have a much higher chance of stopping - up to 20-25 per cent in some trials. This is compared to a 10-12 per cent success rate for people attending clinics without using NRT. The trouble is there are very few clinics. As there is no thusiasm of the medical staff who run them.

But most people using NRT are buying it over the counter, getting only minimal advice from the pharmacist. Apart from the nasal spray, NRT is not available on pre- it won't help them stay stopped - that it will scription and, given the 90 per cent failure get them about 10 to 15 yards in an 100- box of Marlboro, or you're getrate for using it without support, seems ex- yard race." pensive. The NRT market is worth about £32.4m a year in the UK. Nicorette's gum

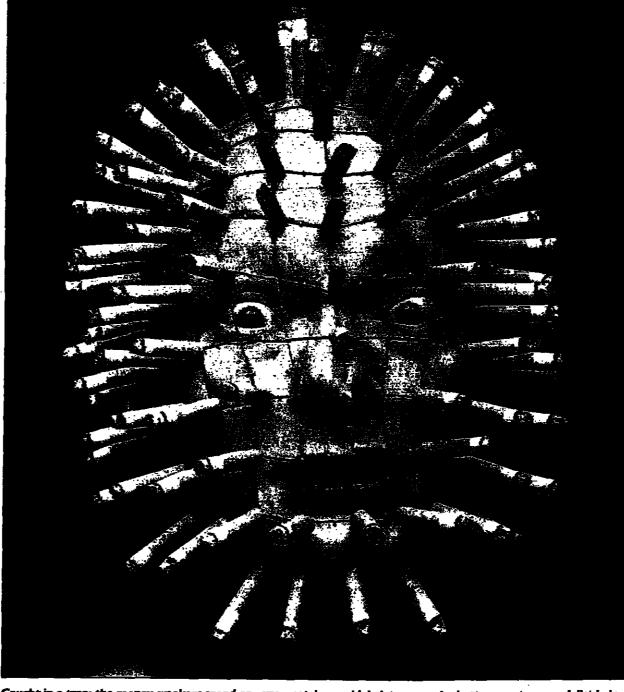
TOMORROW is No Smoking Day. Many costs about £15 for a week's worth and £180 for the recommended three months. The inhalator starter pack is £5.95, with cartridge

"NRT is the only method proven to work," says Gillian Riley, an addiction counsellor and NRT sceptic. "But only drug coming, "I'll do it next week/month/year." But panies can afford to do trials. There is no research into other techniques." Her main objection to NRT is the implication that physical withdrawal from nicotine is a significant part of giving up, and that the solution is to maintain nicotine levels in the bloodstream. "Stopping smoking is primarily a mental process," she says. "Nicotine leaves the body less than 24 hours after the last cigarette. Unless you deal with the psychological side, the conflict between wanting a cigarette and wanting to give up, it's always going to be difficult."

Smokers, certainly, seem to perceive NRT as being useful. This may be because of the £6.5m Pharmacia & Upjohn spend on advertising every year, or because of their own experience of trying to stop. A survey of smokers, published yesterday by the organisers of National No Smoking Day, found that 44 per cent wanted cheaper, subsidised NRT Second on their wish list, was more smoking clinics.

But Dr Andrew Sherwood, who runs a clinic at his Kings Lynn practice, says per-The more positive evidence is that suading people to get help is incredibly difficult. Even though two-thirds of smokers say they want to stop, most of them are in a "pre-contemplative" stage. "That means they want to stop, just not now," he says.

Although doubtful about NRT's worth, he would like to be able to prescribe it. "It would at least provide an opening gambit funding available, they depend on the en- to talk about smoking, which on the whole a day and has no intention of trypeople are reluciant to do. But what we need is better techniques for dealing with the psychological side," he says. "What I tell people is that it will help them stop, but



Caught in a trap: the money smokers spend on gums, patches and inhalators may be better spent on specialist help

'Patches didn't take away the urge'

smoker. I just love it. I've only had two serious attempts at giving up - once using patches, once after seeing Alan Carr's stop smoking video," says Emma Messenger, 27, who smokes 20 ing to give up again soon. "The patches were OK. You can feel it seeping in, but it didn't take away the urge in those moments when you catch sight of a ting ready to go out."

She lasted two weeks, before Days daze, page 17 having a puff at a party and find-

"TM A REALLY dedicated ing herself back as a full-time smoker before she knew it. "I'd already cheated a few times, smoking when I had the patch on, a bit like Patsy in Absolutely Fabulous."

Watching Alan Carr, she says, was a "near religious experience" and she stuck it out for six weeks. She recently had a go on a friend's inhalator. "Disgusting. I've never coughed so much in all my life. Next time I do it, I'll watch Alan Carragain south London. He did a group and then go cold turkey.

"I reckon it's all about trick-

'It's a psychological battle, not physical'

"I HAVE to stand still and sheart at myself," says Brian Harvey, who gave up smoking seven weeks ago. "I fight and argue, telling myself I don't want to smoke." Now 53, he had his first cigarette at 16 and had been smoking 60 a day, costing him £70 a week. Having just retired from teaching, he decided it was time to stop, and contacted Quit who told him about a clinic at St George's Hospital in

course there for six weeks which

advised using some sort of nico-

"I've found the gum is pretty helpful, although the moral support is just as important. Pd tried gum before but thought it was a complete waste of time, probably because I didn't know how to use it properly ... I also thought it was a substitute for smoking, which it's not-

"You've got to go off and do something else, some painting or use the computer. That urge gradually going away but when if comes, now about every two or three days, I it feels like more of a psychological battle than physical one."

A pain for 12001 men only

"I EXPERIENCED two weeks of fever, terrible pain and passed blood in a urine. I was hospitalised but then sent nime because I was told the problem was lifficult

"I had five months off work, tolk a variety of drugs - many of which made: things far worse - and, without me cation, I still feel really ill, tingly all over, sid, numb and in a lot of pain.

"Although I have good and bad ays, it's still tough going for me".

Jon Bernardes, 46, has been affected by a little-known but surprisingly common condition called prostatitis, one of serval diseases targeting that small but troulesome male organ at the base of the blader, the prostate gland. The symptoms val from a short-lived flu-like infection with sone passing of blood to a chronic condition that often causes severe pain around the pelvis and beyond.

While prostate cancer has recently re-ceived belated media and medical acution, non-life-threatening prostate edditions like prostatitis and benign prostic hyperplasia (BPH) - a swelling of thorostate often leading to severe urinary poblems - have remained what Bernares calls "Cinderfella" diseases: little-undrstood, under-researched, poorly publicise and inadequately treated.

Today, however, these conditios will receive some much-needed attenton. The Men's Prostate Health Project, based at the University of Wolverhampton and co-ordinated by Bernardes, is publishing the first-ever survey of men affeced by noncancerous prostate problems ind holding a conference in London to listuss the

The survey, which looked a the experiences of 565 men, dispels the ommon belief that those with prostate publishes are a collection of Private Godfres, geriatric gents forever rushing off to the toilet.

In fact, prostatitis is thought to affect up to one-third of men aged 2)-50 while a similar proportion of men aged over 50 suffer from benign prostatic hyperplasia. or BPH.

The findings reflect the dain on men's lives. And although two thirds of men felt their doctors were generally sympathetic, many said GPs and utologists were unwilling to respond to early symptoms, did not always carry out sufficient tests, gave conflicting advice or made unecessary or ineffective interventions.

Peter Baker

For details of the Prostate Helt Association, send two first class stamps toPHA, Langworth, Lincoln LN3 5DF.

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DR PHIL **HAMMOND**

FOLLOWING the phenomenal success of Tibs and Fibs (Channel 5, passim), I've been inundated with requests to demedical quiz. Here's my first effort, a direct copy of the one found that children who bath nobody can do on Radio 4.

How would you get from dirt to asthma to the Berlin Wall to homeopathy to vaccination to West Africa to asthma (again) to death to £2,340 to struck off patients to autism to 1976? Гve по idea.

down from Doncaster, fed you, wined you and given you the chance to shine on national

Virgin trains to soggy falafel to Blue Nun UK Living... Look, my career depends on this - I can't afford another failure or I'll be back in the surgery looking at vertucas 24 hours a day. So either you grow up and do the quiz or...

Or I stick this bloody great needle straight in your eye. Fair enough. Dirt to asthma was in the papers. And what's the link?

in the paper in the same story. Are you deaf? No, but what was the story? I dunno. The headline said "dirt-asthma link" but I didn't read the article.

every needle earns a point Have a guess then. Dirty children who never wash

get lots of asthma No, quite the reverse in fact. A

study by the Institute of Child Health at Bristol University every day and wash their hands more than 5 times a day are 25 The Round Medicine Quiz per cent more likely to get asth-

> Cities in West Germany had asthma rates double those in

properly primed

Presumably that's because the kids need to experience a few germs to get their immune systems primed properly so they don't over-react to allergens when they get older. For yes. How did you...

And when the Berlin wall came down, it was expected that asthma rates would be much higher in the dirty, polluted East than the squeaky clean West, but in fact cities in West Germany had asthma I've just said. They were both rates of two and a half times those in the East. Why was that then?

Because East German kids And what about the UK? come from larger families, get more childhood infections and use fewer antibiotics. So

once again, their immune systems get properly primed. Pollution can trigger asthma attacks but isn't a primary cause - did you know asthma is just as common on the Isle of Sky as in inner London? No. Have a bonus mark. Thank you. Now, has extract

The show where

of Berlin Wall been used as a homeopathic remedy? Yes for ... No, let me guess. To reunify a patient's symptoms or psy-

Well done

suggest it may have an effect in conditions such as hay

A point off for being a smart Now West Africa and vaccithat children who were vacci-

nated against measles were twice as likely to develop asthma in later childhood than those who had measles infec-So was the immunisation pro-

gramme stopped? No, because children who weren't vaccinated were much more likely to die from measles, especially if they

were poorly nourished or chronically ill. Between 1970 and 1988, uptake of the vaccine was patchy and there were on average 13 deaths per year from measles and over 20 children with permanent brain damage. Since 1989, most GPs have innunised 90 per cent of eligible children and deaths have faller to less than two a year. And what made Gls increase

• at neglecte

Money. Currently GPs get £2,340 for hitting be 90 per ceut target. This his helped reduce deaths notiust from measles but from doubtheria, haemophilus menigitis, po-And vaccination is there, I lio, whooping cough, con-presume, because like genital rubella anctetanus. On the downside, sme parformed choice wien their centive to jab the kds and a jeopardising the taget pay-

to strike a family off who

Exactly. There was a scare

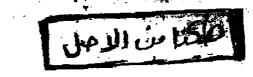
and brain damage, and alto be unquantifiable vaccination rates droppedlo 30 per cent over 300,000 hildren went down with wipopings

Well then, have a go. Why should I? homeopathy it works on the the East – because principle of treating like with ents don't feel they et an in-Because this is a half-hour East German quiz and we've only managed Yes, only homeopathy doesn't doctor has a pecuniary into fill 30 seconds of it. kids' immune work. Ha ha ha That's not my problem I disagree. There's an infew have been struc off the systems were Look, we've got you all the way creasing body of evidence to list for refusing (and hence

> ment). So what about autism? I've no idea if it's inked to the MMR vaccine-but given the media scaret would nation. Wasn't there a study be even more unresonable

didn't want it. At precut I'm unconvinced by he evidence and will coninue to have my kids immunised but I know GPs who've stopped. Remember 1976?

about whooping couglyaccine though a later study found that lasting damage was a rare as



Madonna: the mother of all pop

The tabloid hyenas say she's lost her way. Not so, says Suzanne Moore. She knows exactly where she's going

IT IS a strange thing to be nearly 40 and still find yourself dancing around in your bedroom to a pop record, especially when that music is made by a woman of much the same age, who was never, ever going settle for mere 15 minutes of fame. Madonna has been famous for 15 years. During that time she has grown up a lot - and so have I, but clearly not enough to feel unexcited by the release of her best record in years. Ray of Light.

There are, of course, the begrudgers. Madonna, we have been told recently by interviewer after interviewer, isn't as beautiful as you think she is. She is not even sexy. She wore a blanket for one encounter with the press, for goodness sake. She has gone grungy, her hair is a mess. She looks positively crusty. She has become a hippy. I have read all these things in the last few weeks. The sub-text to all this is that a successful women can never be truly happy, and worse - the most dreadful thing that can ever happen to a woman has happened to her - she has let herself go.

Well, yes, she has let herself go, but not in the way that the tabloid hyenas mean. Madonna is freer than she ever was and she looks amazing. Don't tell me that this is simply because she has been photographed by Mario Testino, the man who reputedly produces a post-coital glow in every woman he snaps. She looks fabulous because she is fabulous. Motherhood has not ruined her - if Testino's recent Vanitv Fair pictures of her with her haby, Lourdes, are anything to go by, it may have even made her relax a little. The queen of the treadmill has taken up yoga. Maybe she is even becoming a little more flexible.

Madonna's embracing of the ethereal because spirituality is the fashion acces-Sanskrit symbols on her hands? Is it any became an icon herself she understood the corsetry? Is all this going with the New Age one named after the blessed Virgin herflow any deeper, any more meaningful self. than Edina Monsoon's chanting and crysdoing that mid-life pop star trip, like every for so long that we wonder if even she can mous remark that she was not living if she stave off a mid-life crisis?



rather than material side of life has been formed entirely by her Catholicism and rubbished, too. She has gone all cosmic every move she made, every symbol she dangled in front of us was her way of pubsory du jour. Yoga, the Kabbalah, hennaed licly losing her religion. Long before she different to her Eighties interest in value of iconography, hardly surprising in

The charge, as always, is that she is not tal healing? What next - Liam Gallagher to be taken seriously, that she is a fake. becomes a Quaker? Is she guilty of just. If this is true then she has been faking it other superstar before her, of getting a re-tell the difference any more, because there ligion, preferably an Eastern one, to is no one on the planet who knows more about image and artifice than this woman. But for Madonna an interest in faith For all these years she has teased us with and mysticism is hardly new. She was the prospect of showing us the real on camera.

Madonna, of opening her heart as well as her legs to the world. While she shed one veil of femininity, she mysteriously draped herself in another.

Yet the more she revealed, the less-we knew. The one thing that I was sure of after having seen the movie In Bed with forming on stage than when she was bewanted us to see, and Warren Beatty's fawas "off camera" stuck in our heads, hecause at the end of the day we knew that Ms Ciccone, control freak extraordinaire. had allowed that remark to be recorded

moved. It was a revelation be-

cause that dog broke my heart

Jacques Tati. He was only young

when we got him. Although

greyhounds start racing at 18

months, they retire about three

and that's all the life they have

on the track. When I touched

him it completely spooked him

- he had never been coddled.

never been played with and

didn't know what toys are for.

I found myself with an animal

that I knew nothing about, how

you first get them. They are

like institutionalised human be-

We called him Tati, after

and changed my life.

It is this determination both to exploit. and expiore her own fame and its consequeness that makes her so utterly compelling. The nature of fame is a subject that our artists and novelists still struggle with - the meaning of celebrity, the life examined and examined yet again. And Madonna was that she was more real per-inere in the eye of the storm: the most famous woman in the world is doing it for collection of songs about love and loneliness and the impossibility of making intimate connections when you are carrying around the haggage of mega-stardom. It is also about what it is to both lose a mother and to become a mother. Some critics

may have described it as sixth-form poetry, but these tyrics were never meant to be poetry; they are pop songs alive with the great wash of mood and rhythm and life force that only music can bring. Madonna knows in her very soul that the dance floor is a magical place, not because she belongs to the chemical generation, but because she knows about the alcheline of the new album. Ray of Light is a drove her there in the first place. "Only thing. She does wants what she wants when you are dancing can you feel this, when she wants. It doesn't really matter

of ber power, what makes her so irresistible you know she means it. Which is to women and so unsettling for her detractors. When Madonna, a woman so much.

Evolution of a star: Madonna in 1998 (main picture), Like a Virgin, early in her career (top left), in Jean-Paul Gaultier conical bra during the Blonde Ambition tour (centre) and to her latest video, Frozen, tzken from the Ray of Light album

obviously in control of her own destiny. spoke of desire, she did so aggressively in conical bras, in masturbatory dance sequences, in her thaunting of Latino lovers

and joyous lag-haggery.
When she decided to turn herelf from a sexual subject into a sex object for her book Sex, a work she now regards as an act of rebellion, shows derided, it was thought that she revealed too much, as though showing her naked body was the same as baring her soul. The critics heldup before us the holy trinity of failure the over-hyped sex book, a contrived cutalogue of taboo busting, the mediocre Erotica album and a disastrous role in Body of Evidence.

Then she did sometting truly shocking. She learnt how to sing. She made Evito and then she had the much longed-to: love-child.

Not for her the passive Bridget lonesstyle ticking of the biological clock. She would have a baby even if it meant being a single parent, and like Jodic Foster she is rich and famous and clever enough to do it by any method she damn well pleas-

We love Madonna - as we loved Princess Diana - because of her flaws, because she bangs on about her unhappy: childhood, her failed relationships, about the sheer loneliness of the long-distance celebrity. We see a woman who, ske Diana, has it all but who says sometimes she feels empty inside.

And we see a survivor. Madonna has made mistakes, looked had, looked good. has been too poor to take the Subway, toofamous to leave the house. She is a star and will be for a very long time. Her sexnality is a work in progress. Suddenly she is cool enough to appear on the front of NME - she is the mother of all pop - and even shine on the cathedral of tack that is the National Lottery show. She even got away with singing Andrew Lloyd Wester songs. Here she is again at number one. the ethercal girl still pushing more product than ever

To see woman free from the need what we think of her. "Nothing realiy It is this knowledge that is the source matters she sings on Ray of Livin, and precisely why she continues to matter so

"That neglected dog broke my heart'

REVELATIONS: ANNETTE CROSBIE

Dear Lorraine (1997)

Fresh air, great

perfect escape.

views - the

The woman: Annette Crosbie

The time: Spring 1993

The place: Wimbledon

"I'M ALMOST 64, unfortunately I know myself pretty well by now and it is not a comfortable position to be in. I would prefer to be different in many so ways from the person I am. Especially now that I have a crusade. I wish I were more analytical and quieter – because I tend to go in with all guns blazing and that's not a good idea. I've done it all my life and I don't seem to be able to alter.

I've always been passionate, I'm exhausted by the time I finish the Sunday newspapers, but until about five years ago I've never felt strongly enough

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about anything to campaign. I just happened to read an appeal for homes for ex-racing greyhounds. Up to that moment I

hadn't given them a thought. I went to the kennels where there were a lot of young greyhounds barking and jumping around in a pen. The re-homer went away and came back with this dog whose coat was dull he had fleas, his nose was all crusted. He looked a pretty sorry sight. However, I didn't realise just how big a problem I'd taken on until we took him through the front door of the house: he walked down the hallway into the kitchen. slipped on the cork tile floor. panicked, lent against the near-

it had been treated nor its temperament, because it takes along time for their personality to come through. Fortunately, although I didn't know it at the time, greyhounds are the steadiest, gentlest, quietest dogs. Eventually there did come a day when Tati's eyes lit up and his tail did wag - because they don't when

> These days, I live with my daughter, who fortunately is as crazy about greybounds as I am because we've now taken on another two. I discovered that there are thousands of dogs looking for homes but people won't take them on because there are myths about the bread: they will need a lot of exercise (greyhounds are bred for bursts of speed not stamina - two walks of 20 minutes is all they need) they will chase and kill anything that runs (not true - all my greyhounds walk off the lead and

I never have any problems). I get very angry about people who race greyhounds. If the

est cupboard and couldn't be dogs are injured, they are often put down because its cheaper. Every week healthy and fit animals are destroyed by yets because their speed has dropped. Or even worse, there are dogs left on the Yorkshire moors with muzzles on and just left to starve! It's obscene. I don't know how people can do that. Some owners cut the cars off their dogs, so they can not be identified by their tations, and throw them into the sea, or allow them to be used for

> Campaigning has become my raison d'etre in a way that acting has never been. It's just a job I do, atthough always to the best of my ability, which is nes inconsiderable after 40 odd years of experience. I never take my work home with me and I don't give it a thought when I'm not doing it.

People say that I'm successfui, but I don't see it. I've done one situation comedy which is hogely popular and I'm instantly recognisable on the streets. Real success is somebody like Judi Dench or Maggie Smith, who I'm currently working with, or ending this dirty greyhound racing industry all toeether.

My mother was like this too, she was possionate about everything and as a child I just wished she would stop and give me some peace and quiet. Now my daughter leaves the room when I get on my high horse. Or she can be very crafty and say: "you're unsetting the dogs!" Annette Crosbie is currently in 14 Delicate Balance which is at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket

until 4.April. Interview by Andrew G Marshali

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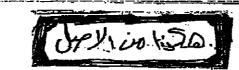
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Drum-beating will not help Kosovo

TELEVISION pictures of tanks on village streets, harrowing stories of families split apart by brutal policemen, the bloody evidence of ethnic conflict ... no wonder that the drum is being beaten for foreign intervention in Kosovo. The American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, has been vocal and she has been echoed by the British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook. She talks ominously of the Milosevic regime "paying the price".

This, however, is dangerous language and the British government should think very carefully before associating itself so closely with the American line that all the world is a potential target for military intervention. To stick to President Clinton over Iraq like Brer Rabbit to the Tar Baby is one thing but over Kosovo the British government - pro tem president of the European Union - risks another deep rift between the European powers which would expose, once again, the pretentious talk of a "common" European foreign policy.

Loose talk about intervention also gives an incentive to the Kosovo Albanian insurgents to up the ante - the more Serbs they can kill and the more ground they can claim prior to such an intervention, the better their prospects. There are clear analogies between the situation in Kosovo and that in Yugoslavia as a whole before it broke up. Some experts suggest the lessons from Bosnia are clear: intervene now to prevent major ethnic bloodshed later. They would, however, be more convincing if they also described what kind of arrangement of states and ethnic groupings intervention is intended to create. Look at Bosnia, hanging on as an entity by the skin of the teeth of British and other Nato troops. To say that intervention is about keeping the peace alone will not do. The Albanian majority in Kosovo deserve protection from abuse, to be sure, but do they deserve a landlocked statelet which would be economically unviable? Even the Americans do not contemplate that.

The United States, which already has forces on the ground in the Balkans, in Bosnia and Macedonia, cannot be the universal policeman; once the policeman starts getting shot at (and Serbian passion over Kosovo should not be underestimated or written off as some ploy by Slobodan Milosevic) then he is likely to withdraw.

Mr Milosevic is a cruel opportunist with no vision to offer the Serbs. But he operates in troubled waters. The European Union countries cannot agree on sanctions, let alone military intervention. The Russians are more closely exercised by their ethnic kin in Serbia than they are about Iraq. In such circumstances the very phrase "international community" (much loved by our Foreign Secretary) does not have a great deal of meaning. Britain and the United States and perhaps Germany might make financial sanctions effective in the long run: Russia and Greece are hardly in a position to lend Belgrade money. Such pressure should be applied immediately and tightly but ought not to be accompanied by belligerent promises that might lead the Albanian insurgents to imagine a white knight will come to their rescue.

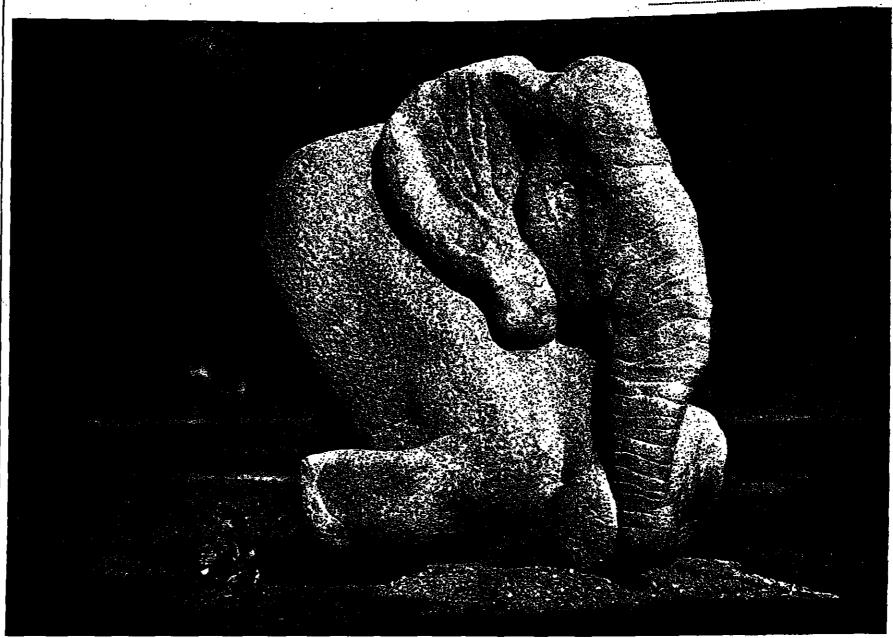
Parental panic on TV



EVER SINCE Bill and Ben, parents have been the worst critics of children's television. The puppets mis-spoke, they were not intelligible - most of the criticisms levelled at the Teletubbies were anticipated at the dawn of the children's television age. Children in front of the screen become typecast as victims, things to be manipulated by advertisers, animators and the Woodentops. But listen to children themselves. Their huge capacity to understand the medium, to ironise and challenge its conventions is often neglected. The second World Summit on television for children, which opened in London yesterday, will do well not to underestimate children's televisual literacy. "Dumbing down" is an attractive argument for adults, who tend to forget it was their own parents who first alleged it. Has there been a generation since Adam when parents have not fretted about the cultural condition of their offspring?

Not all change is for the worse, but neither ought it to be uncritically accepted. Children's access to the Internet can be a tool for acquiring new knowledge; equally it can augment those forces in the modern world which make childhood innocence so short-lived. There are trends afoot in television which favour animation against drama and factual programmes. You do not have to fondly recollect Blue Peter of old to believe that programming for children should - as for adults - offer a rich mix. Wall-to-wall cartoons, the potential result of ghettoisation on children's channels with low budgets, bore them.

An academic study by Sonia Livingstone suggests British teenagers do live a rather different life from their contemporaries elsewhere in Europe. A "bedroom culture" would be worrying if it implied young people were growing up autistic, asocial. But other studies have suggested teenagers also often fall prey to peer pressure. And spare a thought for the teenager for whom privacy, in your own bedroom, is the most important thing in the world. Are British young people more materialistic? Parents do face brandname pressure, to be sure - which tends to be all the sharper among those on low incomes. But not all children are acquisitive mousters; not all so lack sensitivity for their parents' feelings or their families circumstances that they insist they cannot live without Nike or Diesel. Conversation about young people's tastes goes on incessantly - but the most important thing is that, in families and in society at large, we ensure it is not one-sided: that children's aspirations and judgements are sought and carefully weighed.



The life-size granite sculpture 'Wounded Elephant', by Ronald Rae, which was installed yesterday in Regent's Park, London A 9x12 print of this photograph can be ordered on 0171-293 2534

Photograph: David Rose

Serbia's path to war

REFERRING to the Kosovan Liberation Army as "shady" ("Cook plea falls on deaf ears as Serb police blitz villages", 6 March) lends credence to the Serb notion that they are a terrorist group. Terrorists are military units which mercilessly attack innocent civilians outside their own country (or foreigners within it) to draw attention to their cause. The KLA are defending their homes and families against an internal aggressor and trying to fight their way back to the semblance of democra-

cy they enjoyed under Tito. If Slobodan Milosevic continues down this path - a course which has been escalating for years – the result will involve several other countries in the region and perhaps even Turkey, making Bosnia look like a picnic. Such thousands of displaced refugees) will be felt throughout Europe for many years to come and one way or another, we will pay for it.

CLAUDIA ROYSTON London SW19

I HAVE recently returned from the area around the city of Vukovar, which in January passed from the UN back to Croat control. The Croat campaign of terror against the Serb refugees began the very next day, a levy on occupied premises; buyers with the aim of ethnically cleansing them from the area.

On my return I was naively surprised to find no mention of these and other horrors, although I have since a diminishment of the hassle of noticed a small and obscure paragraph on the subject. With the actions of the Serbs in Kosovo on the front the advice of estate agents empage (9 March), would I be wrong in ssuming that if the situation in Vukovar had been the reverse and the Croats had been the victims, the coverage might have been greater?

It is easy to identify a "baddie" and stick to that choice, but no one ethnic group has a monopoly on evil and aggression. We do the Balkans no favours by demonising the Serbs and presenting a complicated conflict in simplistic terms. ALISON M DRAPER

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

End of estate agents?

ONE MUST welcome your leading article (5 March) on the need for reform of buying and selling houses. but shoring up a basically unsound system with rules and regulations is unlikely to provide a solution. There is a straightforward way of putting things to rights.

Estate agents are about the only middle-men in the market who don't the drive for faster and faster hold their own stock - because, they say, they can't afford to - and their clients therefore have to bora war (specifically the hundreds of row heavily to cover the transfers a stream of NHS initiatives are all over which they preside. Agents contributing to this pressure, and also have a vested interest in hold- with their open-ended contracts ing out for high prices, thus forcing consultants find more and more re-

centage for their "services". Why not empower local authorities to buy and sell houses at rateable value or the equivalent? They could afford to hold their stock; they would have every incentive to sell range since their income depends on would immediately know what was available to suit them in the locality; and home owners would become more mobile as a result of

moving. Astute authorities, perhaps with ployed as public servants, might in fact legitimately make quite a lot of money on the side. JOHN A DAVIS Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

Heavy NHS workload

I SINCERELY hope that your informant about the focus of the current government spending review has got his wires crossed ("Clean-up for NHS ment award system, 3 March). I am astounded at the suggestion that

the emphasis of the review is on "con- beginning in 1974 and first produccern that some [consultants] are doing too little".

The real problem is that the overwhelming majority of consultants are now doing too much; many are at their wits' end trying to cope with extremely heavy and relentlessly increasing workload. Reductions in junior doctors' hours, an alarming increase in emergency admissions throughput of patients, shortages of doctors in many specialties and the administrative demands created by

These are the issues that the Government needs to address. Punitive measures aimed at the tiny minority who may not be pulling their weight would serve only to undermine the morale of the hardworking quickly at the best price within the majority on which the NHS depends so heavily. JAMES N JOHNSON

> Central Consultants and Specialists Committee British Medical Association

Rössing uranium mine

London WC1

complete affection

YOUR report "MI5 taped Cabinet

minister, book claims" (2 March) refers in passing to Anthony Holland's claim to have been "found a job at the Rossing uranium mine" in 1969. Not only does this company have

no knowledge or record of Mr Holland being among the few geologists then exploring in the Rossing area - none of whom were British or Australian - but there was no mine at to take tipping into account. Rossing to 1969. It was four years lat- IAN L FREEMAN er that a decision led to construction

tion in 1976. Moreover, Rossing's entire production has always been sold under contract subject to International Atomic Energy Agency and/or Euratom safeguards, as well as oversight by national regulators in the countries concerned, for the sole purpose

of electricity generation. Mr Holland's reported assertions about Rossing could not be true. GIDA NAKAZIBWE-SEKANDI Manager Corporate Affairs Rössing Uranium Ltd

Priest was not a bigot

them up; since they charge a per-sponsibilities being piled upon them. IT IS easy for S G Armstrong (letter, 9 March) to judge from the safety of Oxford the snap pastoral judgement of a Catholic priest in Northern Ireland when faced with the brutal murder of his parishioner Damien Trainor, alongside Damien's Protestant friend Philip Allen.

The priest gave Catholic last rites to Damien, who would have wanted them, and prayed with Philip, who would have wanted that and no more, yet he is judged "a bigot". Had he given the sacraments to a Protestant in those circumstances, he would presumably have been judged "a proselytiser", or worse. .HUGH LINDSAY

Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria The writer was RC Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle 1974-92

Tips from Canada

YOU REPORT (4 March) on the minimum wage and tipping. Canada has had a minimum wage for some time but a lower rate is set for waiters, waitresses and hotel porters

Myth of media choice

PICTURE OF THE DAY

TONY HALL Chief Executive of BBC News (letter, 4 March) bangs on about the myth of "choice". Most people don't need choice in the media.

When we had fewer television and radio channels the controller's difficult job was to provide a halanced schedule that could appeal to the widest possible audience. The lack of "choice" meant that occasionally viewers and listeners might have the enjoyable experience of being stretched by material they otherwise would never have explored.

Now with the plethora of "choice" it's easier just to pick your channel. • plug in and switch off. Then we wonder why we are raising a nation of children obsessed with cartoons or sport or violence or soaps or sex.

Radio 4 was a channel you could leave on all day, knowing that you would be entertained and informed in ways you might never have imagined.

No, choice is not good: diversity is good. By removing this diversity today's broadcasters are creating a fragmented nation of monocultures.

It takes less talent to deliver the glut of politics that Mr Hall promises than it does to produce a focused programme like Yesterday in Parliament, which by invading my ears for 15 minutes each day forces me to think about issues of which I might otherwise not have been aware. KEITH JOHNSON Old Isleworth, Middlesex

No competition

YOUR leading articles of 4 March display a surprising contrast in the treatment of Bill Gates and Rupert Murdoch. Apparently Gates is "an international treasure", while Murdoch is "an agent of moral debilitation".

Many would not see the distinction. As one familiar with software other than that of Microsoft, I avoid using its products to the same extent that I boycott the emanations of News International, Gates and Murdoch in their attitudes to competition are two sides of the same coin. TIM DENNIS Birch, Essex

The Tragi-comical History of King Tony, Part Two: enter, stage left, the Ghost



YESTERDAY I brought you a fragment of The History of King Tony, the only known Shakespearean play dealing directly with the progress of New Labour. We didn't get much further than the famous defeat of the Tory Army, so let's see how King Tony settles in to power.

Scene: The Palace of Westminster, Enter King Tony accompanied by noblemen, courtiers, supplicants. advisers, Catholic priests, spin physicians, etc. King Tony: Now, tell me, wise old men and gentle

What is the greatest problem of our age? Dake of Livingstone: It's very simple. To regain our Socialist ways.

King Tony: Oh, come, dear Ken! Be not so obvious! Dake of Livingstone: Give socialism a chance ! It

has not yet been tried. King Tony: Why, sirs, I keep this Duke of

Like other men keep parrots in a cage, To cry out, ever and anon, in purist rage, "Give the Left Wing a chance! Give it a chance!" Livingstone: (aside) I'll lead this Tony such a devilish

When I am mayor of London, that he'll rue The day he chose his centre-rightist view! King Tony: The greatest problem of our age is

We must reform the bleeding welfare state! So what we'll do is this. First, single mothers... As King Tony pursues his speech, Dukes Prescott and Gordon-Brown stand apart and talk privily. Gordon-Brown: What think you of our new anomted

Prescott: It suits him well. He loves to hear the

Beyond the palace walls, rehearse his name. Here is a man who loves to be loved, methinks. Gordon-Brown: And loves himself as well. See

Shines on his face whene'er he makes a point. The court all worship him, from whom comes light, But he has worship only for himself. Prescott: And for those who worship him! For

President Bill! For evil Rupert, known as the Dirty Digger, For Gerry Robinson, the off-shore king ... Gordon-Brown: Thou sayest sooth. He craves

From those below and everyone above! As others desire money, he craves love! Prescott: But hush. He looks this way. We must not

To be conspiring 'gainst his crown and throne. Gordon-Brown: Let's smile and wave, and play the But things may have a very different end ...

Scene: a banqueting hall, where King Tony and Queen Cherie are welcoming guests as they arrive. Queen: Pray, welcome, one and all, whoe'er you are! From every walk of life, from law and City, From showbiz's merry halls, from sport as well! Lloyd-Webber, Branson, Spice Girls, Irvine the

We welcome citizens right across the board! Livingstone: (aside) Except the working class. There's none such here. This is become an élitist show, I fear.

King Tony: My lords and ladies, welcome to my Where we shall show a model of the Dome!

But first, to set the spirit of this merry night ... Enter the ghost of Old Labour, which only King Tony can see.

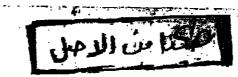
No, no! Foul ghost, begone! Avaunt my sight! Your hands are caked with dirt! Your face is grim! You look like Aneurin Bevan! And who needs him? Queen Cherie: My Lord, what is this sudden fit! What have you seen?

Why do you shake and glower at your Queen? The ghost of Labour Past shakes his head at King Tony, points to a copy of the Labour Manifesto of 1945, wags a stern finger and vanishes. King Tony: Saw you not the ghost of Labour past? Conrtiers: Well, no we didn't, your Highness, since

King Tony: Then, being so, I am myself again. Mandelson: (aside) I'd better phone the guys at

And ask them not to mention this new fil. If Tony should crack up, Twill ruin it!

In forthcoming extracts, we hear from the beleaguered Lady Mowlam in battle-torn Ireland, "Mad" Jack Cunningham, Donald the Scottish Pretender etc., etc.



Worried about porn? You too can be an Internet policeman



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

POLICING the Internet has just begun in this country. The newly created Internet Watch Foundation announced last week that its hotline service has generated 781 reports referring to 4,300 items about which there were complaints. The bulk of the calls were about child pornography. Internet Watch was set up by the industry as a result of prompting by two government departments, the Home Office and Trade and Industry.

People are at once worried and despairing about the Internet. They can see that it will eventually bring material to the computer screen that will be as powerful as anything which is available in the cinema, on video or on television. For the moment, the poor quality of the making image, in which everything appears stilted and fuzzy, has the effect of distancing the viewer. All the same, many web sites specialising in pomography are popular. And as the telephone links between computers begin to carry more data, so the primitive nature of the Internet will disappear.

The despair comes from what I think is largely a misapprehension that the Internet could never, for instance, he made as suitable for children as, say, early evening television. The argument is that experspace exists beyond national boundaries and cannot be reached by government law enforcement agencies and regulators. How can you stop somebody based upon an obscure island in the Caribbean sending out objectionable material which your children can quickly find by searching the Internet, children who seem so adept with computers? No 9 o'clock watershed on the computer screen!

The solution will be derived from the fact that if a label or electronic tag is placed on a web site or on individual web pages, then the 'read' the tag and, if the user so chooses, demade of it. Like so much else on the Internet such filtering is crude, or, to put it more kindly, at an early stage.

sort of labels and whether companies and ingate keeper is not only the parent but the tickget in. In the video market (which is also a British Board of Film Classification responsibility), the system is both evaluative, using age packaging to help parents. As far as the Internet will allow us to be our own policemen.

is concerned, because parents are the sole gate keepers, a descriptive system alone, which generates a neutral rating the computer can read (say, 'level 4' rather than 'suitable for viewers aged 15 or over'), is the appropriate method.

But who would carry out the rating for violence, sex, nudity, language, teaching of criminal techniques and so on? In the United Kingdom, the expert examiners of the British Board of Film Classification do this work before publication. This simply would not work with Internet material. There is too much of it. Pre-vetting would be impossible to arrange. The only way forward is do-it-yourself. Providers of Internet content would have to rate themselves.

This may seem a ridiculously optimistic objective, but the fact is that the American computer games industry has recently agreed to rate its products itself on a common basis. Makers of computer games fill out an ingenious questionnaire (on the computer screen, naturally) that branches through a series of highly detailed and narrowly defined questions to which the answer can only be 'no' or 'yes'. From the answers the computer automatically generates a score and a description. For instance, the computer game 'Doom' is rated Violence Level 3 with the accompanying description 'blood and gore'. This is a method which would be suitable for Internet material.

Unfortunately, for the purposes of regulation in cyber space, there are no distributors.



There is nothing equivalent to the position of British cinemas, whose licences from local authorities invariably contain a classification requirement, or equivalent to British video shops, where it is illegal to sell or rent out unclassified material, or equivalent to the American software retailers, who have allowed themselves to be pressurised into rejecting computer games that lack a rating label on the packaging. Except that in theory, you can now, if computer in the home can be programmed to you have the correct software, set your computer so that it will not access unrated web sites cline to access the site or the page. The tech- or unrated material. To-day this would leave nology already exists and limited use is being you for the most part with a blank screen but it shows how users will eventually be able to impose their will.

Until then, it is up to governments around Nonetheless the questions thus become what the world, and all the big Internet players, to encourage self-classification and electronic ladividuals posting material onto the world belling to insist upon it where possible and thus wide web can be persuaded attach them. In the engender a virtuous circle. The proprietary web cinema, the British Board of Film Classifica- sites like CompuServe have already made tion (of which) have recently become presi-progress. Conventional publishers operating dent) evaluates films according to their on the Internet can be targeted. So can maksuitability for viewing by children and attach-ers of browsers; likewise the producers of search es an age label. This is appropriate because the engines and all the other paraphernalia. The process will take some time. But in due course et seiler. If a 12 year-old turns up to seek en- I believe that the means will exist for ordinary trance to a film rated '18", he or she doesn't people, who hook up their home computers to the internet, to contrive that material they deem to be objectionable, will be rejected. Each individual, each family will decide what to aclabels to guide staff in video shops, and de-cept, what to reject. Computer technology is scriptive, placing consumer advice on video not frightening but enabling. Properly used, it

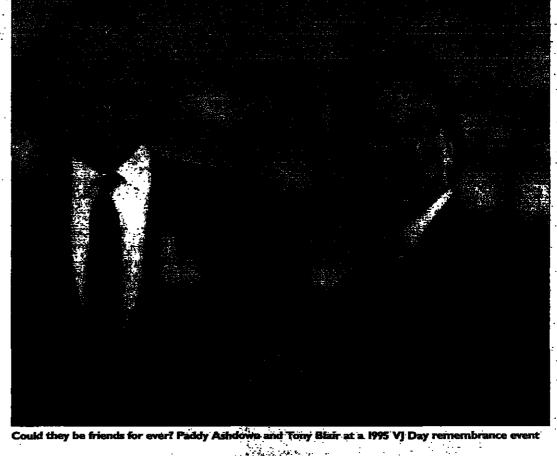
Ashdown and Blair - the Liture of the Lib Dems lies with them both

The Lib Dems can't beat New Labour so, says, Donald Macintyre, they may have to find ways of joining it instead:

IF ALAN Price, on hand to entertain the guests last night at the Liberal Democrats' tenth anniversary party, didn't sing "Oh, Lucky Man", he should have done. The fact is that Paddy Ashdown had a lot to celebrate at the National Liberal Club bash. A party which Ashdown took over in 1988, when its poll rating was within the margin of error of zero, now stands at 15 per cent, with more MPs than it has had at any time since Lloyd George. Its leading figures sit regularly round the Cabinet table under the chairmanship of Tony Blair. It has seen the Blair government introduce a series of constitutional reforms dear to its own heart. It is entitled to expect that it will share power in the first Scottish government for three centuries. A Blair government has granted it the favour high handedly denied it by a Jim Callaghan 20 years ago: a new proportional system for electing the European Parliament in 1999 which will widen its base. And it is closer than at any time since the 1920s to securing electoral reform for the House of Commons, thanks to a Commission chaired by its own elder statesman Lord Jenkins, a figure whom Blair appointed out of deep regard and whom he cannot fail to take seriously when he reports in October.

But this doesn't make the party's chronic dilemma any easier to resolve. It's pointed up by every hallowed demand on the Liberal agenda that Blair effortlessly grants. The Lib Dems' official stance towards the Government is that of "constructive opposition". When it concentrates on the "opposition" it risks drying up the flow of favours, the most outstanding of which, a new electoral system for the Commons, is still no more than in the pipeline. When it concentrates too much on the "constructive" it risks submerging its own distinctiveness - and with it the separate attention - especially media attention - on which its electoral strength, and therefore its bargaining power, may eventually depend

In confronting this dilemma, Ashdown has to contend with a range of emotions -varying from wariness to extreme hostility - about Labour in his own party. Some of these emotions are easy to understand. It isn't, for example, all that surprising that activists worry about social authoritarianism in the Labour Party especially when it is most apparent among some of Labour's most modemising tendency. Conversely since some of the most popular and sympathetic figures in the Liberal Democrats grew out of the social democratic traditions of the pre-Thatcher Labour party, it isn't surprising that they are nervous about whether New Labour is any more, and in any sense, a redistributive party.



When Shirley Williams heartily congratulated the Blair government for its constitutional advances on the Today programme yesterday but admitted to being not yet sure about its social policies, she was being not only true to herself but to the facts. We don't know, and may not know until much closer to the next election, whether the ambitious gamble of luring the dependent off benefits and into work will have paid off for the poor as well as for the Exchequer. Finally, the ing its identity in the public mind.

the brakes on Ashdown's commung cooperation with the Government. They should start reflecting a little more clearly on how far Ashdown has brought them, and on the consequences that would follow a change of strategy.

At least two out of three opinion polls show the Liberal Democrats at slightly above their general election rating which does not suggest the party is los-

al Democrat councillors will seek to put ate a much larger Liberal Democrat party whose future behaviour could not be predicted with any certainty? The idea that the party could secure PR without some earnest of support for the Government that makes it possible is mere myth-making. Unless the Liberal Democrats can be locked into the Blair coalition - probably by joining his Government - they should dream on. A coalition is, no doubt, unlikely - unless and until Blair has at least promised he would back electoral change in a referendum. But after that it becomes a distinctively live possibility.

For Blair, the potential advantages are obvious - that of mobilising a centre-left majority for as long as he is interested in his job. But all those Liberal Democrats who are interested in more than merely piling up the council seats should consider the prize for them too. Partly in a genuflection to the dissidents in his own party Ashdown promises in a document for Southport that there is "no glass ceiling" on Liberal Democrat success. But, as he - and some of those MPs who are less willing to confront his party with the truth than he is, well know - that is only now true if they are ready for still closer co-operation with Labour. In a forthcoming article in Political Quarterly Alan Leaman, one of the party's most prominent thinkers, argues against a merger but strongly in favour of deeper cooperation. Before Blair it was possible to imagine that the Liberal Democrats might, as Ashdown promised in his leadership campaign ten years ago, replace Labour as the main anti-Conservative force. But not now. Blair likes Ashdown. His party should

The idea that the Liberal Democrats could secure PR without some earnest of support for the Government that makes it possible is mere myth-making - they should dream on

Liberal Democrats - from Ashdown down - that Tony Blair could go further, faster, in leading public opinion towards Europe, and towards backing a successful monetary union, may or may not be correct. But it is perfectly defensible.

But there is also, rather quaintly in a party that pays almost uniform lip service to the cause of political pluralism, a deeply tribalist tendency within the Liberal Democrats. It surfaced, if in rather muted form, among some of those who attended a one-day meeting of Liberal Democrat MPs in January, when they preed Ashdown to damp down speculation about coalition with Labour. It will surface again more openly next weekend at the party's spring conference in Southport when activists and Liber - introduce PR merely in order to cre- see that as an asset, not a liability.

strong belief among the pro-European Rather more important however are the prospects for Commons PR. Ashdown himself believes with some reason that a PR referendum will be more difficult to win than many of his supporters think. For the public to opt for electoral change it needs to be confident that cooperative politics - the almost inevitable fruit of electoral reform - works. And that may require more, rather, than less evidence of it before the referendum takes place. But there is also a more self serving point. Liberal Democrats like to talk about PR being their "price" for cooperation - and particularly for entering a coalition. But they should examine the question from Blair's point of view. Why would a Labour Prime Minister even a Prime Minister as phiralist as Blair

a Did you know that prune awareness week is nearly with us?



COOPER

When each day is but an opportunity for selling, no cause gets a good outing

Women's Day, Yesterday was Commonwealth Day, Tomorrow is National No Smoking Day and later this week you can celebrate National Food Awareness Week, Daffodil Day and National Prune Week,

Ralph Waldo Emerson in his journals said that a day was a miniature eternity - and if you look at the list of special days it certainly seems that way. The Roman Catholic Church and its holy days of obligation has nothing on the late 20th century diary.

There are now 313 "awareness days" listed in the calendar, where our attention is sought for enything from arthritis education to bedwetting. With of course Bosses' Day (15 October) and

SUNDAY was International Secretaries' Day (23 April) thrown in for good measure.

Many of these days are nothing more than a chance for commercial exploitation (I refuse to believe that any tie-wearers need help and support for British Tie Week) or a handy peg to try to construct a news story. But the problem is that too many special days make any anniversary meaningless.

International Women's Day is a day in point. Do we really need a Women's Day to highlight women? We can hardly call ourselves a minority. Or is it not just a convenient way to ghettoise "women's issues", pushing them safely to 8 March for another year. Apart from taking advantage of free gym sessions. how many of us actually did

something for IWD? Of course part of the prob-

lem is that IWD has always had to compete with the far more cuddly Mothering Sunday which falls a few Sundays later. But when International Women's Day was first set up it was with a definite purpose in mind - to highlight the bad working conditions of working women. Its roots stretch as far back as 1857, coming out of a march by American female textile workers who were demonstrating for better conditions. The first international day took place in 1911.

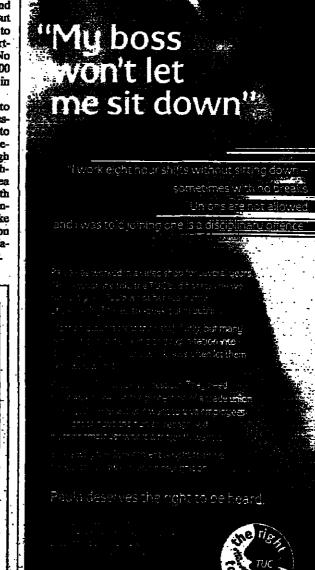
It was really after the First World War that the day took off, with communists like Clara Zetkin, known as the "mother of IWD", persuading Lenin to ter the 1930s women's day largely died out in the West partly because of its association with communism - until the 1970s when the UN declared an International Women's Day.

The last big IWD demonstration in Britain was in 1971 when 5,000 women demonstrated, demanding equal pay, equal opportunity, free 24hour childcare, free contraception and abortion on demand. But nowadays people have only the faintest idea of what IWD should be for.

The country where IWD is celebrated with the most fervency is still Russia where Women's Day is a big holiday, second only to New Year. On Sunday, President Yeltsin told

make it a national holiday. Af- the nation's women: "It is long established that building a house, putting up its walls and roof, is the job of a man. But they call on you, our women, to ensure the home is a comfortable one." Thanks, Bons. No mention then of the 14,000 women who get murdered in

Russia every year. No, it's time to call a halt to all these days. For good causes it's a lazy way of trying to raise awareness that has become meaningless through overuse. And it gives the others the chance to inflict Flea Awareness Week, Foot Health Week, International Left-Handers Day and National Take Your Dog to Work Day upon us. Myself, I'm voting for a National Non-Observance Day.



Damier Benz corporate empire, gave a festive dinner at the Howard Hotel tary of State for Defence, was an honoured guest and seated at the top er. Bernard Grey, was seated at anhave told Pandora that Grey, until recently the former defence correalready made a commanding impression on his new colleagues.

impressed with his treatment by the Germans and complained to his hosts following lunch about his scating them to bring their children. arrangements. Not only should he have been placed at the top table. Grey pointed out, but he was placed next fective bi-partison approach which his brewery dining room of Mash was

DASA, the aerospace branch of the boss Robertson has taken to defense policy since assuming office. Grey should be careful lest such behaviour last week. George Robertson, Secre- is regarded as "off-message" by his Millbank superiors.

table while his Special Policy Advis- EVER SINCE the boom in new London restaurants in the early 1990s, it other table beside Quentin Davies. has become increasingly difficult to Conservative MP. Whitehall insiders persuade restaurant critics to attend yet another launch party. (After all, aren't you supposed to be anonymous spondent of the Financial Times, is when you arrive to judge the latest infimming with self-confidence and has trendy taverna?) But clever Irish frothing with restaurant hacks, most restaurateur Oliver Peyton tried a new tack when launching his London However, the former back was not branch of Mash on Great Portland Street. He asked the hungry press to brunch last Saturday and invited

This strategy worked brilliantly, as anyone who has ever tried to plan a London weekend with children would to a Tory! Considering the quietly ef-



with kids in tow. These including Bill Knott, restaurant critic of the Telegraph, Caroline Stacey of Time Out, Rory Ross of Tatler, Sarah Miller, editor of Condé Nast Traveller and Simon Mills, editor of GQ Active. Even Fay Maschier, grande dame of the London Evening Standard, said she wished she'd brought her grandchildren.

est Conran and Marco inviting the Culture, Mecritics to dine in a petting 200?

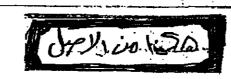
THE 18 AWARDS bill themselves as "the only event recognising arts and cutertainment for adults". That doesn't judge this mean pornography, according to the organizers, but rather "seeing an 18 film at the cinema, reading a JG Ballard novel or catching Prodigy or Eddic Izzard on stage". Sounds perfectly respectable to Pandora. However there was a bit of a rumpus behind the scenes at the Savoy, site of last year's awards. That most ceremonious of hotels took grow up a little, Gerald. exception when guests complained about meeting naked youths dashing about the corridors. In fact, these were models in body-paint taking part in the 18 Awards ceremony. Someone gathered the models' clothes together, stuffed these into bin liners and tossed them onto the pavement. When the Will this start a new restaurant PR Hon Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the trend, with bouncy castles at the lat- Commons Select Committee on

Sport, was asked recently if he would. year's awards at Alexandra Palace, his response was brutal. "I do

associated with your event," he wrote to the sponsors. Perhaps you should

not wish to be

SOME AMERICAN has sent Pandora an e-mail titled "Top 50 Oxymorons". These range from "plastic glasses" to "happily married" to "synthetic natural gos" to "rap music" to, at the top of the list. "Microsoft Works". May I suggest



Reed calls off £18bn link-up with Wolters

By Peter Thal Larsen

Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch Dutch group after the deal ran into opposition from European competition authorities.

In a joint statement, the two companies said that "in the last few days Wolters Kluwer has al plunged 57p to 620p on the made it known to Reed Elsevier that it needed to renegotiate 3.10 guilders at 34.50. Shares in a number of the terms of the proposed merger". This came after Wolters Kluwer concluded that the conditions set by regulators for clearing the deal would have "adverse implications for the benefits of the merger for the respective shareholders of all three

A Wolters spokeswoman said that disposals required by the regulators would have threatened the company's 15 per cent annual earnings growth target.

other matters had arisen in the course of the financial due diligence between the parties that would otherwise have given cause for the merger to be

The merger, which was announced last October, was to have created the world's largest professional and scientific publishing group, with combined profits of £1.2bn on sales of £5bn, and with dominant positions in medical and legal publishing.

However, it had attracted vociferous opposition from consumers, who argued that the combined company's grip on certain markets would be too

er, which is controlled by holding companies Reed International

and Elsevier, has concentrated on building up its positions in what it calls "must-have" inforpublishing group, yesterday mation-scientific legal and professional information that it called off its proposed £18bn consumers must have access to merger with Wokers Kluwer, the at all costs. The company, which is led by joint chief executives Nigel Stapleton and Herman Bruggink, has also spearheaded

> the move into on-line publishing. Shares in Reed Internationnews while Elsevier shares fell Wolters Kluwer closed down 3.90 guilders at 303.10. Shares in the three companies had risen by between 10 and 20 per cent since the merger was announced.

Analysts said the news was a setback for Reed, but was not fatal. "It's not the end of the world. It's more a question of lost opportunity," said Louise Barton, an analyst at Henderson

The merger was not about However, the parties said no cost cutting - the cost savings of the deal were expected to be no more than £50m. Experts had expected the deal to increase both companies' growth rates into the next century.

Reed Elsevier and Wolters had described the benefits as "synergies". Users of both com-



Nigel Stapleton: Plans for 'synergies' collapsed

concerned that the merger would give them the power to

The European Commission had received complaints about the potential dominance of the tax and legal publication business. Legal companies currently marketing their products through Reed's Lexis-Nexis online database were also worried that their products would be pushed out in favour of Wolters Kluwer's offerings.

The complaints found a sympathetic hearing with the Commission, which last December said it had "serious doubts" about the proposed deal, arguing that there were "very significant overlaps between the activities of both parties in several areas [for example, in the areas of legal and tax publishing] where the position of either one or both of the parties seems already strong at the moment."

US competition authorities were also scrutinising the merg-

Industry experts said yesterday the prospect of being forced to sell more business than expected may have scuppered the deal. "They've had a huge number of objections and would have had to sell a large number of the businesses," said one analyst. There was a huge hassle factor.

It takes time to do these things." Analysts said Reed was now likely to concentrate on building up its business through a series of smaller acquisitions. The company, which has brought forward the reporting of its full-year 1997 results to Thursday, has a strong balance sheet following the January sale of IPC, its consumer



agement buyout team for £950m. 10,500 in afternoon trade after differences between the International Monetary Fund Outlook, page 19 | and Jakarta burst into the open Photograph: Enny Nuraheni/Reuter

Rupiah dives as Indonesia blames IMF for potential social upheaval

By Stephen Vines in Hong Kong

Investors take fright as President Suharto presses ahead with currency board plans

INDONESIA lashed out at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for delaying payments social upheaval.

The moves dealt another blow to Indonesia's battered credibility with investors, sending the rupiah tumbling as much as 20 per cent to the dollar, and pushing the benchmark stock index down 3.2 per

Yesterday, on the eve of President Suharto's re-election, his administration indicated that it was ready to go it alone if the IMF insisted on unacceptable reforms.

At a meeting with political leaders President Suharto said: "The IMF package will impose a liberal economy, which is not in line with the constitution."

It was left to one of his ministers, Ginandjar Kartasamita, who is responsible for national development planning to up the stakes further. He said yesterday: "We welcome international bodies such as the IMF and the World Bank to help Indonesia. But if that means they can impose their will or humiliate us, we would be better off without their aid."

may well appeal to the nationalistic sentiments of the handpicked National Assembly members, it did not impress the investment community which run on the local currency.

The slump triggered falls Singapore, Malaysia, South yesterday, Lawrence Summers. Korea and the Philippines in the US Deputy Treasury Secretary. wake of a 20 per cent decline in declined to comment on the the value of the rupiah.

Hong Kong, Thailand and folding financial crisis. Malaysia also felt the Indone-

sian tremor but recovered by the end of trading.

Among the most contentious issues between the IMF and the Indonesian government is President Suharto's from a \$40bn (£24bn) rescue enthusiasm for a currency plan, warning that some of the board to tie the Indonesia ruagency's reforms could trigger in piah to the US dollar at a fixed

Bambang Trihatmodjo, one of the President's sons, said that his father intended to announce the establishment of a currency board after his swearing-in

Not only the IMF but all countries which are contributing to the bailout oppose the creation of a currency board.

The head of foreign exchange trading at a European bank in Singapore said that a board system would last no more than a few weeks at the most and then the currency would spiral into freefall.

"If that happens it would be catastrophic," he said. "There's been some wild talk about hoards of boat people invading Malaysia and Singapore if Indonesia collapses, but now it doesn't seem so wild."

At the end of last week the IMF announced a delay in the disbursement of the second tranche of the \$43bn bailout. Although IMF officials tried to play down the delay, it clearly demonstrates that an impasse Although this tough talking has been reached over implementation of the IMF reform

Spokesmen for the IMF kept a low profile, hoping that the government in Jakarta can promptly sparked yet another be pulled back from the brink without a confrontation. However, hopes of this happening ewhere in Asia stocks fell in are dwindling. In New York

Unrest grows, page 11

Halifax trumps rival with £780m Midshires bid

By Lea Paterson

HALIFAX, the banking group, last night trumped the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) in the battle for Birmingham Midshines with a £780m rival bid for the building society. Halifax's offer represents a premium of 24 -29 per cent over RBS's offer of between £605m and £630m.

David Gilchrist, Halifax group secretary, said the Royal Bank of Scotland's bid "significantly undervalued the business".

The RBS had earlier said it would not raise its offer "under society. any circumstances".

offer would be good news for for at least three years, but has

more than 1 million Birmingham Midshires' members – who each stand to net an additional windfall payment of up to £150 - but could be bad news for the building society's 2,000 employees.

The RBS has said it would preserve the Birmingham Midshires brand as well as its 115-strong branch network. It has also guaranteed jobs for Birmingham Midshires' employees for three years.

City analysts believe Halifax is likely to cut jobs and close branches in order to justify the premium it has put on the building

Halifax has pledged to keep City experts said Halifax's the Birmingham Midshires brand

made no guarantees about jobs or the branch network. Mr Gilchrist said no such guarantees would be forthcoming, although he stressed that Halifax's previous large acquisitions - Clerical Medical and the Leeds Permanent Building Society - were completed without the need for

any compulsory redundancies. A Birmingham Midshires spokesperson said the directors were considering Halifax's offer. On the subject of possible job losses, he said: "It has always been integral to Birmingham Midshires board to add value to the society and its key stakeholders. That includes our members and our 2,000

Halifax said it considered making an offer for Birmingham Midshires for "several weeks", but only approached the building society last Friday, when Jon Foulds, Halifax's chairman, held informal talks with John Leighfield, his counterpart at Midshires.

Under the terms of its agreement with the RBS, signed last year, Birmingham Midshires cannot hold formal talks with a rival bidder. It is also obliged to put RBS's offer to members, although it does not have to recommend the bid.

Members of Birmingham Midshires are due to receive de-

tails of the RBS offer in April. They were scheduled to vote on the proposed deal at a special

general meeting in June and the takeover was expected to be completed in the early autumn. Halifax said it intended to match the Royal Bank's existing

timetable as far as possible.

Under the terms of the offer from RBS, Birmingham Midshires' 1.1 million savers and 130,000 borrowers each stood to collect windfalls worth up to

The Save Our Building Societies (SOBS) campaign, which has opposed the RBS offer for undervaluing Birmingham Midshires, described the Halifax as "nothing better than an enormous carpetbagger".

Outlook, page 19

Manufacturing nears recession as retail sales growth slows

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

FIGURES showing manufacturing output flat, inflation at the factory gate falling to its lowest since 1967 and hinting at slower retail sales growth encouraged hopes yesterday that the danger of an increase in in-

terest rates has passed. The official statistics indicated manufacturing is on the verge of recession, and helped nudge the pound back below the psychological DM3 barrier yesterday.

But the view that the evidence has now vindicated the majority on the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee against a rate rise was not universal. Hawks in the City took support from a new monthly estimate of GDP which suggested growth has picked up

modestly since the new year. There is no doubt manufacturing is the weakest part of the economy, with output unchanged in January after falling for the previous three months. A sharp drop in oil and gas production and gas and electricity output, due last year. to unseasonably warm weather. took the broader industrial pro-

cent during the month.

Manufacturing activity is scarcely any higher than a year ago, and has reached a level barely 5 per cent higher than its cent. Their annual inflation 1990 peak. But some analysts re- rate, which edged down to 0.4 mained convinced the official figures underestimate the health of industry, as surveys and reports of skill shortages have painted a more upbeat picture.

But there was no disagreement about the lack of inflation materials falling 0.2 per cent in

LIMELIGHT, the struggling Moben kitchens and Dolphin bathrooms business, added to the flurry of had news from the high street yesterday when it said the famiture market was "fragile", writes Nigel Cope.

Reporting a £12m loss for last year compared with a £2.8m profit in 1996, Limelight said it was trading "marginally behind budget" for the current year. However, it said trading in the first two months of 1998 were ahead of the same period

Limelight's shares closed a penny lower at 38.5p yesterday. in July and August.

duction measure down 0.6 per February to a level 9.5 per cent lower than a year ago and little higher than 10 years ago.

"Core" prices charged by

manufacturers rose just 0.1 per per cent. is the lowest since 1967. Meanwhile, a survey indicat-

ed a sharp turndown in the value of sales on the high street last month. The British Retail Consortium said total sales growth slowed from a buoyant 9.0 per in industry, with prices paid for cent in January to 6.6 per cent in February. The underlying trend was more buoyant, nearing its summer peak. A new economic indicator

published for the first time yesterday, a monthly estimate of GDP published by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, suggested growth had recovered slightly. The new index, which has the

merit of giving a broad assessment of the economy at more frequent intervals than the official GDP data, rose by 0.5 per cent in the three months to February, up from a low of 0.2 per. cent in November, although still well below the 1.2 per cent three-month growth rates seen

The state of the s

Fund managers buy into mid cap stocks

heavily into FTSE 250 stocks, reflecting renewed confidence in the economy. according to the latest Merrill Lynch/ Gallup industry survey, writes Lea Paterson.

The survey also revealed a general decline in enthusiasm for UK equities as a whole and a pessimistic view of Japan's economic prospects.

Trevor Greetham, global strategist at Merrill Lynch, said; "Medium-sized companies tend to be more sensitive to cent - indicates that UK fund managers | Lehman estimates that British Telecom the domestic UK economy than their are now happy with their cash levels. | could afford to return £5bn to share-

UK fund managers have been buying larger FTSE 100 cousins. The growing paying more attention to these stocks." yesterday, writes Michael Harrison. Thirty-eight per cent of UK fund

managers said they preferred FTSE 250 with 15 per cent last month.

UK firms could afford £30bn buy-backs BRITAIN's biggest companies have holders, and BP £600m. BTR last week

sense that the UK economy may not be enough firepower to finance £30hn slowing so rapidly after all may help to I worth of share buy-backs or acquisitions. explain why fund managers are at last according to a report published The latest analysis by the US invest-

ment bank Lehman Brothers estimates stocks to FTSE 100 stocks, compared that Britain's 350 biggest non-financial companies could halve the cash in their The decline in buying interest in UK | balance sheets and still be less geared equities as a whole - buyers of UK eq- than their US counterparts. With the buyuities now outnumber sellers by just 3 per | back rage set to grow further this year.

announced a £2bn share buy-back. The abolition of dividend tax cred-

its has reduced the attractions of equity for tax-exempt UK funds while the phasing out of advanced corporation tax has made share buy-backs more tax

Lehman said reducing cash holdings by £30bn would raise the net debt to equity ratio from 0.4 to 0.6 per cent - on a par with the European average but still well below the figure in the US.

Outlook, page 19

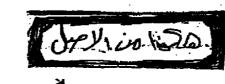
STOCK MARKETS

Charge(%) 52 wt Mgb 52 wt low Yield(%)

INTEREST RATES US long bond <u> a assectio 1 yr chig</u> 0.78 **MAIN PRICE CHANGES** Prioring Degree 1: Degree Faills

CURRENCIES \$/£ OTHER INDICATORS

TOURIST RATES Australia (dollars) Italy (Hra) . Austria (schillings) 20.46 Japan (yen) 207.54 Belgium (francs). 80.08 Malta (lira) 0.6299 2.2621 Canada (\$) Netherlands (guilders) 3.2765 Cyprus (pounds) 0.8476 Norway (kroner) 12.19 Denmark (kroner) Portugal (escudos). 295.63 Finland (markka) 8,9006 Spain (pesetas) 246_37 France (france) 9.7592 South Africa (rand) 7.818 2,9229 Germany (marks) Sweden (kroner) 2_85 461.26 Switzerland (francs) Greece (drachmel) 2.28.4 Hong Kong (\$) 12.28 Turkey (lira) 367,093 ÚSA (\$) reland (punts) Source: Thomas Cook





OUTLOOK ON COLLAPSE OF REED'S MERGER HALIFAX'S BID FOR BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES AND THE DASH TO DISPOSE OF CASH

Merger mania starts to run out of steam

IS MERGER mania turning to merger aversion? Well perhaps not quite yet. Too many City bonuses are riding on the present dash to consolidate - as well as some heady share price valuations. But for two of the present wave of giant mergers to turn to dust within the space of a couple of weeks begins to look earily like a trend.

The backdrop to these two episodes is very different. With Glazo and SmithKline, the story was about personal and cultural incompatibility; it was about different styles of management as much as who was going to run the show. With Reed Elsevier and Wolters Khiwer it was more to do with competition issues than anything else.

Reed was last night blaming Wolters, claiming it made unacceptable demands for a change in the terms of the deal. What really seems to have happened is Wolters began to believe the competition authorities were demanding too high a price in terms of asset disposals to make the deal worthwhile to its own sharebolders. Attempting to renegotiate the terms with Reed may have been just a pretext for scuppering the deal.

So yes, these two mergers broke down for entirely different reasons. There is a theme here none the less.

Put at its most basic, the industrial case for consolidation is to build higher market share at lower cost. It wouldn't be wholly fair to depict this process as a cynical attempt to squeeze customers and . employees for the benefit of shareholders. There's a bit more too it than than that. But this is certainly a part of it - if only because the commercial pressures on companies are all the other way right now.

Globalisation, rapid advances in information technology, and greatly enhanced competition is destroying margin as never before, creating unprecedentedpressure for cost cutting consolidation. Unfortunately, or perhaps happily depending on your point of view, the competition and management issues involved seem to be getting too big to handle.

Market lessons for mutuals

MICHAEL JACKSON, chief executive of Binningham Midshires building society, may well deserve the hard time he's getting from the press and others for agreeing a bid from Royal Bank of Scotland which now looks like a severe undervaluation. But there's another way of looking at it.

What about this proposition? When Birmingham Midshires agreed last August to takeover terms of between £605m and £630m, it signed a no-lose deal. At the time, the price looked reasonable when compared with other building society conversions, the existing Birmingham Midshires board was to be given complete. autonomy within RBS, the brand would be preserved, and there was to be a three year guarantee to staff on job losses.

Mutually owned institutions are not like PLC's. When directors consider their fiduciary duties, they are obliged to act in the long-term interests of the society as a whole, including employees, not just the organisation's owners. The deal with RBS seemed to square the circle - a decent first announced, nobody would be grum-

windfall for the members and a guaranteed medium-term future for the society.

Since then, share prices among the converted building societies have risen 20-40 per cent and the RBS terms - at 12 times current earnings and 1.7 times book value - have begun to look poor set aside valuations of up to 19 times earnings and 3 times book for Halifax and its like.

OK, concedes Michael Jackson. If he were striking the deal today he would have gone for something higher. Few people anticipated these soaraway share prices, and, in any case, there's nothing in the agreement with RBS to preclude Halifax or anyone else from tabling a higher bid if they want to. Just think what would have happened if share prices had gone the other way, if they had fallen rather than risen. Then the boot would be on the other foot. According to Birmingham Midshires, then, far from cocking up the original negotiation, it has managed to put a floor under the price while at the same time leaving the door slightly ajar to others.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, RBS has a dif-ferent interpretation. It believes it has a legally watertight lockout agreement with Midshires and that the Midshires board will not be able to consider Halifax's higher offer, far less recommend it.

We'll see. Part of the blame here lies with the cumbersome process of conversion. Unlike bids for publicly listed companies, which have to be completed within 90 days, building society conversions take an awfully long time - up to 18 months. If this takeover had happened when it was

bling. Nor would anyone be complaining if the terms had been fixed not in cash but in RBS shares, which have enjoyed the same ride as the converted building societies over the last nine months.

But perhaps the biggest lesson here is that there are no half-way houses between the utopianism of the mutual tradition and the slash and burn priorities of the joint stock company. Once the principle of mutrality is conceded, there's no turning back. Once the door is opened, the wolves will be in. It is probably not possible for a building society both to convert and have everything continue in the same cosy way as before, which was the intention of the RBS deal. However, Halifax needs to be a bit careful here. It too might find itself victim of the stock market's appetite for cost cutting consolidation.

The dangers of too much debt

HALIFAX is another of those former building societies that has more cash than it knows what to do with. Wher it is not using up the surplus to bid for its erstwhile compatriots in the mutual movement, it is busy returning the stuff to shareholders by the barrow load. Odd really, when the whole idea behind conversion was supposed to have been to give building societies access to capital markets, not give the capital markets access to the cash built up over decades of mutual ownership.

Never mind. The mantra these days is balance sheet efficiency and Halifax is Lambert a decade ago.

intoning it along with everyone else. Greed is good but debt is better and woe betide the business which is underleveraged. That is why share buy-backs are all the rage. What began as a trickle in 1996 and developed into a stream last year could easily become a torrent over the next few years. The latest estimate from Lehman Brothers, published yesterday, puts the amount of equity that could be "retired" this year, either through buy-backs or cash acquisitions, as high as £30bn.

There are some compelling reasons why repurchasing share capital is proving so popular. The abolition of dividend tax credits has made equity a less attractive investment for the tax-exempt funds. At the same time. the phasing out of advance corporation tax gives companies the opportunity to buy back capital without the risk of being left with ACT payments that they will never be able to offset against mainstream tax.

Buying back shares to reduce the cost of capital is one thing. The focus is now on how to leverage balance sheets further through direct substitution of debt for equity. If Lehman Brothers is right, UK PLC has plenty more scope. Reducing the cash holdings of the top 350 companies by a half would still only bring gearing levels up to the European average. They would still be a long way behind the hugely leveraged Americans. But everything, as they say, in moderation. Those American investment banks that are promoting the corporate debt market so heavily now have conveniently forgotten how it all ended in the nasty mess called Drexel Burnham

Menzies' chief set for £1 m pay-off in WHS deal

By Nigel Cope On Correspondent

1.13

The managing director of the John Menzies retail business is in line for a £1m pay-off fol-wing vesterday agreement to sell the chain to WH Smith for £68m.

Steve Robinson, who has run Menzies' high street stores for four years, will leave the group when the deal has been completed. He is on a three year contract of around £170,000 which will entitle him to £500,000 compensation. How-

ever, it is understood that Menzics has agreed to double that figure in return for ensuring a smooth handover of the business to Smith's.

The lavish compensation scems certain to anger Menzies' shareholders and create another corporate governance

row over boardroom pay. David Mackay, John Menzics chief executive, declined to confirm details of Mr Robinson's severance terms yesterday. He said the detail would be available in the company's next

did pay tribute to Mr Robinson's role in improving the Menzies operation: "He has played a key role in bringing the business forward and he deserves some recognition for

Mr Robinson had been part of a management buy-in group that lost out to Smith's in the battle for Menzies. Under a £55m offer tabled by Alchemy, the venture capital group, Mr Robinson would have remained in charge of the stores and taken a stake in the business. Unannual report. However, he der the terms of yesterday's deal

the enlarged business will be run by Beverley Hodson, managing director of WH Smith Retail.

WH Smith said it had no plans to break up the Menzies chain. While it admitted that there would be some store closures and job losses, Smith's pledged to keep most of Menzies 232 stores and retain the Menzies name in Scotland where it has 92 outlets. The remaining stores south of the border will be re-branded as WH Smith.

Richard Handover, chief executive of WH Smith, said the deal would enhance the group's position both in Scotland and in railway stations and airports: "It is a good opportunity for us to get truly national coverage. We plan to keep the whole business ... we have bought it to grow it."

He said WH Smith had met the Menzies management last year but stressed that this was not about buying the retail chain but about the possibility of sharing certain functions such as IT systems in the distribution business.

WH Smith shares closed 10.5p to 503.5p. Menzies's rose

Ryanair's \$2bn order aims to double size of fleet

By Michael Harrison

history.

Ryanair, the low-cost Irish airline, yesterday unveiled plans to more than double the size of its fleet with a \$2bn (£1.2bn) order for new Boeing jets - the biggest in the carrier's 13-year

The new aircraft, due for delivery from 1999 onwards, will be used to expand Ryanair's route network as its steps up its operations in preparation for the launch of British Airways' own no-frills, low-cost carrier Go.

the Dublin and New York stock markets last year, is buying 25 Boeing 737-800 aircraft for use on its burgeoning European route network from Stansted airport. It has taken out options to buy a further 20 of the 189seat aircraft.

Howard Millar, Ryanair's financial director, said the order would be financed partly through the airline's cash resources and partly through

The aircraft will be delivered at a rate of five a year, enabling

Ryanair, which floated on Ryanair to hit its target of increasing capacity by 25 per cent a year. Last year it 4 four million passengers with a fleet of 17 Boeing 737s and this year expects to carry 5 million. Six new routes to France, Italy and Sweden are being added to its 22 existing destinations this summer.

> Mr Millar said Ryanair was in talks with 45 other airports about launching new routes. It is also in discussion with the Stock Exchange about a London listing but there were no plans for any equity issue.



The new Jaguar VS XI Series gets up to things rately seen in a saloon. in all 3.2, 4.0 and supercharged 4.0 lttre yerslons, a hydraulically-mounted

AJ-V8 performs like no engine before it. It's cradled by an all-new suspension system, which takes the refined and robust nandling (that all jaguars are quite rightly

The automatic 5-speed transmission 'reads' your driving conditions to maintain both traction and stability, inhibiting gear

is also ideal for high corners).

Variable ratio power assisted steering provides the new Jaguar with effortless

scarcely do justice. A test drive, on the other hand, will speak volumes. Don't dream it. Drive it.

THE NEW V8 XJ SERIES.

Emerson removes Astec directors to gain board majority

ant, yesterday carried out its threat to remove three executive shareholders". directors from the board of Astec (BSR), the electronics group in private shareholders had which it holds a majority stake.

At an extraordinary general meeting, called by Emerson, the company used its 51 per cent company showed up. Instead, it finance director, Mike Arrow- lawyers from Norton Rose, smith, technical director Neal Stewart, and manufacturing director Mike Smith off the board. pany's behalf.

They were replaced by three Emerson nominees - Stephen Cortinovis, Olivier Delage and Robert Staley. The three men. about whom no details were tions on the grounds that any released, will become non- answers they gave might be executive directors.

The move gives Emerson representatives a majority on the Astec board, allowing them to carry out their proposed policy of ceasing dividend payments by

Astec's chairman, who said the Act EMERSON Electric, the US gi- removal of the three directors was "not in the interests of all

> flocked to the egm to voice their However, nobody from the US Emerson's legal advisers, who voted the shares on the com-

Despite repeated interrogation from other shareholders, Emerson's representatives consistently refused to answer quesprejudicial to the court case that a number of institutional investors in Astec have launched against Emerson. The shareholders argue that Emerson has behaved with unfair preju-

icised by Brian Christopher, Rule 459 of the Companies

A judge is expected to rule this week whether the legal action, which was lodged with the Numerous institutional and court last week, can proceed.

Peter Marshall, one of Astec's independent directors, disapproval at Emerson's tactics. criticised the lack of Emerson representatives. "The dominant shareholder should send someshareholding in Asice to vote the was represented by three one. They haven't answered a single question or offered any words of explanation," he said.

The meeting started with the institutional shareholders in Astec calling for an adjournment on the grounds that not enough information had been supplied about the new directors. But that move that was defeated following a vote.

Shareholders and directors were equally bewildered by the legal technicalities of Emerson's unprecedented proposals. "I think we're all breaking new ground on the legal side." dice against the minority share- Mr Christopher said in response The move was strongly crit-holders, in contravention of to one shareholder's question.



THE COST of introducing a new model of London taxi depressed profits at Manganese Bronze, the cab manufacturer said yesterday. The group, which also makes a range of metal powders and components, said pre-tax profits of £1.4m for the six months to 31 January included an exceptional cost of £2.5m for introducing the TXI, to replace

the conventional model (above). The group made £4.1m in the same period a year ago. Jamie Borwick, the chief executive, said: The launch of our new taxi was by far the biggest event in our recent history. The market reception has exceeded all our expectations and we are now producing the TXI at a higher rate than we have ever made taxis before.'

Ottaker float to net £6m paper profit for founder

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

OTTAKAR's, the chain of 47 bookstores, is planning a stock market flutation next month that will value the group at around £30m. The company is raising £20m via an institutional placing and plans to invest the 🌋 funds in new stores openings.

The float will mean a paper profit of f6m for founder James Hencage, who started Ottakar's with a single store in Brighton 10 years ago. He owns 20 per cent of the company.

However, analysts speculated that Ottakar's might be snapped up by a trade buyer before it comes to market. Books etc was acquired by Borders, the US bookstore, for £40m last September just ahead of its stock market début. Other US booksellers, including Barnes & Noble, are still interested in entering the UK market and 🚓 Ottakar's would make an easily digestible bite for a larger group.

However, Mr Heneage, Ottakar's founder said: "We have had no approaches in the last six months.

Ottakar's has grown quickly by concentrating on smaller towns rather than battling against Dillons and Waterstone's in the big cities. The company has identified 120 further locations where it believes its stores could be opened. It plans 15 new stores a year over the next two years.

Ottakar's recorded pre-tax profits of £1.2m on turnover of £23.7m last year. It is floating to enable its venture capital backers to realise part of their investment. Foreign & Colonial controls 70 per cent of the

Death of BSkyB chief set to prompt fresh shake-up at critical time

By Terry Macalister

British Sky Broadcasting faces further upheaval among its top management at a critical time for the satellite broadcaster follow- short illness. He had only been Carrington, the group's chief financial officer.

The company, controlled by Rupert Murdoch, is in the mid-

in its magazines and exhibitions

for seeking out possible acquisitions or disposals," John All-

wood, the finance director, said

after the company reported an-

lying pre-tax profits rose 12 per

cent to £92m, boosted by growth

at its regional and national news-

paper operations, in line with an-

Mirror was interested in making

further acquisitions, he added

that the company also had strong

organic growth prospects. He

said the size of any acquisition

would be limited by the com-

pany's gearing level of 89 per cent after last year's £300m ac-

quisition of regional group Mid-

land Independent Newspapers.

comment on reports that it

has a 46 per cent stake.

But the group declined to

David Montgomery, the

chief executive, attributed the

profit rise to strong results at The

Mirror and Midland Independent,

Although Mr Allwood said

alysis' forecasts of £89-94m.

husiness.

Mirror looks for

new acquisitions

to boost growth

MIRROR Group, the news- profits from its magazines and

paper and television company, exhibitions operations, that en-

said vesterday it was interested joyed strong growth, with pro

in making holt-on acquisitions forma operating profits rising 25

"There is still plenty of room gional newspapers to reduce its

to boost its growth, particularly per cent to £5m for the year.

nual results. Mirror said under- Newspaper Publishing.

and hopes to launch a version of the deputy managing director, man, because he holds the the new service within three

Mr Carrington, who was aged 47, died on Friday night after a ing the sudden death of Nick in the top financial position since the turn of the year.

He took over from Richard Brooke who left in November quickly followed by BSkyB's dle of switching from analogue chief executive and managing to digital broadcast technology director, Sam Chisholm, plus

Mirror has increased in-

vestments in television and re-

reliance on national papers,

and last week confirmed it was

in talks with Independent

Newspapers over its stake in

Mirror's continuing makeover

had paid off by gaining market

share against The Sun, the

UK's biggest-selling daily,

owned by Rupert Murdoch's

than-expected cost savings from

its £300m acquisition of Mid-

land Independent Newspapers.

The group had initially

expected cost savings of £5m for

the first full year after the ac-

with expectations," said Lorna

Tilbian, an analyst at Panmure

operations - which include Live

"making good progress"

Mirror Group's shares

TV and six city stations - are

towards breaking even.

"The figures were in line

He also predicted better-

News Corp.

quisition.

plans to sell its 46 per cent stake Gordon & Co. "It's a very

in Newspaper Publishing, own-cheap stock, we've got a fair

er of The Independent and value of 250p." Mirror said

Independent on Sunday, to advertising revenue at its

Independent Newspapers, the national newspapers rose 6 per

Irish media company that also cent in 1997 and its television

as well as increased trading closed up Jp at 186p.

Mr Montgomery said the

David Chance.

The official reason for the departures was that senior executives did not want the extra responsibility that would come from launching the latest phase

> speculation that the BSkyB could lose Gerry Robinson, its chair-

equivalent position at Granada, which has its own digital broadcasting interests.

Granada, which controls an 11 per cent stake in BSkyB, has been increasingly active with its partof BSkyB development. But there ner, Cariton Communications, in

> worst possible time. Mr Carrington's death could create "a

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

vacuum at the executive level", warned Paul Richards, media analyst with Panmure Gordon. "He [Mr Carrington] was a key member of the management team and no replacement comes

A BSkyB spokesman said it was too early to say who would replace the financial director, who was working a second stint at the pay-TV broadcaster.

He had been deputy director its support around sports pro-

turning to BSkyB in 1995. Mark in made-for-television films. It was a row between BSkyB Booth, BSkyB's chief executive said Carrington's death was "a tragic loss". He said: "Nick had an incredible knowledge of rights for digital channels that caused the conflict - and legal BSkyB and was a strong presence during two key periods in the

of finance from 1989 to 1991 but

left to join Polygram before re-

company's history. He will be missed very much by all of us." BSkyB has traditionally built

and Cariton over the proposed acquisition of Premier football

433p yesterday.

writs to fly - between the two. Shares in BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by Mr Murdoch's News Corporation, rose 6.5p to

grammes but increased compe-

tition has encouraged it to invest

Liffe to develop electronic screen trading system

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe), is to develop an electronic trading system by autumn next year and plans to review its decision to relocate in Spitalfields, east London. The move to screen trading, which will operate in parallel with Liffe's traditional "open outcry" system, follows criticism of the exchange's perceived reluctance to embrace electronic systems. A Liffe spokesperson said the decision to introduce electronic trading was the "main reason" behind the review of its proposed relocation to Spitalfields.

Lloyds to sell estate agency

Lloyds TSB, the UK bank, is in "exclusive talks" with Bradford & Bingley building society over the sale of its estate agency chain, Black Horse Agencies. B&B expects the negotiations to be concluded within a month. Black Horse Agencies comprises 370 outlets, employs 3,300 and has net assets of around £35m.

Close Bros interims rise

Close Brothers, one of the few remaining independent UK merchant banks, has been upgraded by brokers following a stronger-than-expected set of half-year profit figures. The bank earned pre-tax profits of £37m in the six months to January. up from £28m last year. Rod Kent, Close Bros' managing director, said he was "bappy" with the bank's independent status although he added "that is not to say if somebody approached us with a deal we wouldn't consider it".

Regulation plans postponed

The Government's Green Paper on utility regulation has been postponed until after next week's Budget. The Department of Trade and Industry planned to publish the consultative document early this month but has clashed with the Treasury in a number of areas, notably over proposals to tax excess profits in the privatised gas, electricity, water and telecoms industries.

Racal wins £85m radar deal

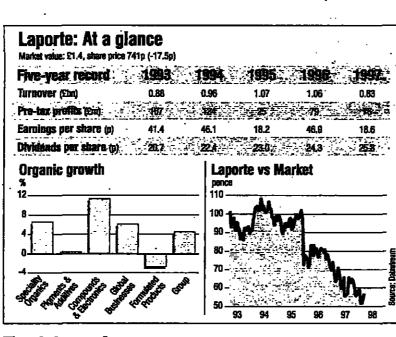
Racal has landed an £85m order to belp develop a new battlefield radar system as part of an international defence consortium. The Cobra system, designed to locate, track and counter enemy artillery fire, will enter service in 2001.

COMPANY RESULTS.

	Turnover £	Pre-cax £	EPS .	Dividend
	44 53m (42.0m)	2.92m (2.14m)	11.1p (12.48p)	6.5p (5.9p)
British Vita (F)	808.4m (895,8m)	66.2m (57.2m)	19.8p (16.8p)	8.75p (8.25p)
Breakcastle (F)	- (-)	2.02m (1.71m)	3.69p (3.95p)	2.0p
Capital&Regional Pres(F)- (-)	11.1m (6.1m)	15.8p (12.2p)	3 5o (3.0p)
Clese Bros (I)	·(-) · ·	36.75m (28.2m)	19. 9 p (15. 3 p)	4.8p (3.8p)
CMG (F)	383.0m (425.2m)		38.50 (27.4p)	7.8p (6 0g)
Expanses (F)	110.9m (115.7m)		10.41p (19.9p)	3.85p (3.3g)
Had Explosering (P)	210.0m (230.6m)	18.28m (13.04m)	29.6p (20.98p)	10.4p (10.0p)
Horider Headilins (F)	93.2m (92.8m)	8.2m (6.6m)	15.8p (13.3p)	
Laperte (F)*	830.3m (1.96bn)	132 2m (127.0m)	48.5p (46 9p)	25.8p (24.2p)
Limelight Group (F)**	183.8m (174.9m)	-12.28m (2.84m)	-11.5p (1.4p)	
Mallett (F)	15.21m (11.20m)	3.25m (1.63m)	15.12p (7.68p)	4.4p (3.8m)
Manganess Bresze(I)	47.20m (49.12m)		5.27p (17.32p)	
Marylebone Warmiek (1)	28-23m (6.79m)	4.11m (1.17m)	6.5p (1.9p)	1.25p (ng)
Mirror Grassp (F)	559.0m (\$38.0m)	80.0m (101.0m)	13.5p (19.8p)	
Parkwood Holdingst (F)	24.66m (19.31m)	0.961m (0.982m)	3.1p (3.1m	1.80
Pendragon (F)	770.0m (581.0m)	15.1m (12.6m)	21.2p (19.8)	10.7
Persiamen (F)		50 45m (33.08m)	21.3a (15.2m	10 0o
Potypipa (I)	119.6m (93.1m)	12.0m (11.3m)	4 8p (4.65p)	1.03p (Q.92p)
Regal States (F)	101.8m (66.3m)	17.46m (10.43m)		1.25p (1.0p)
Ratyce (F)	66.3m (64.8m)	9.81m (7.02m)	31.0p (21.5p)	14.5p (10 (p)
Tay Houses (I)	50.16m (50.81m)	1.76m (4.17m)	4 Op (3 Op)	
Vymura (F)	40.95m (43.76m)	5.12m (4 40m)		1.812 (1.71) 5 412 (1501)
Waste Resycling (F)		6.13m (4.12m)	100-101	
World Talecom(F)		-2.81m (-0.347m)		2.5p (2.0p)
(P) - Fiscal. (Q) - Importers	"Current pretex, EP	S is pre-exceptional	Pa Diminus to	<u> </u>

were also reports of differences British Digital Broadcasting. of opinion about the way forward. Analysts said the latest up-More recently, there has been heaval at BSkyB comes at the

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES



Exciting changes afoot at Laporte

PERHAPS it is telling that only three journalists turned up for the press conference at Laporte. It is regarded by many in the City as just another boring company in a bombed out chemicals sector that has felt the full impact of the strong pound. The recent takeover of rival Allied Colloids provided a brief flutter of bid interest across the sector, but the argument goes that the long-term prospects for an oversupplied industry are hardly inspiring.

Laporte's share price performance certainly tallies with this view. The company has underperformed the market and the sector dramatically over the last five years. But, despite first impressions, interesting things are afoot at Laporte, which should produce an exciting chemical reaction.

In his two years in charge Jim Leng, Laporte's chief executive, has lead the group's renaissance by selling a third of the business, approaching half of its sites and shed 2,000 workers. These reforms helped underlying profits rise 12 per cent to £132m in 1997, and saw the group beat its target of 15 per cent margins and a 25 per cent return on capital employed.

Impressive figures, and Laporte bas impressive ambitions: to double the sales at its speciality and chemicals and electronics divisions over the next five years, to raise margins to a heady 17.5 per cent and return on capital to 27.5 per cent. To do it Laporte will have to prove it

can concentrate on profitable niches within a tough sector now most of its restructuring programme is complete. For example, its business supplying the pharmaceutical industry is growing rapidly. And coloured concrete is going down a storm in California, aiding pigment sales. There are still some areas of concern.

Although the group achieved organic growth of 5 per cent last year, the formulated products division is underachieving. The slowdown in Asia may also have a knock-on effect on sales.

negatives and, with a fair wind, Laporte's goals are in reach. The group's strong finances also give it the firepower to launch a sizeable acquisition of, say, £500m.

Laporte's stock rose 17.5p to 741p yesterday. Analysts forecast current year pretax profits rising to £139m, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 14. After a sharp rise in its price. Laporte looks less of a bargain that it did at the start of the year. However, there is still scope for further improvement. Good value.

IMI bashes out the goods for Pepsi

AT FIRST GLANCE it is not easy to see what Midlands metal basher, Gary Allen, has in common with the Spice Girls. But both are heavily involved with Pepsi. While the singers provide advertising jingles, Allen's IMI group produces drinks dispensers and good business it is too.

Out of IMI's 1997 sales of £1.43bn, 10 per cent now comes from Pepsi, Coca-Cola and McDonalds. Sustained demand from the US for the engineering company's products helped drive up sales by 12 per cent in 1997. Overall group profits before tax and exceptional items rose 7 per cent to £146.5m but the strong pound meant IMI missed out on a further £20m on the bottom line. IMI's basic pre-tax profits fell from £161.1m to £148.9m but the 1996 figure was distorted by £26m of excep- and internet booksellers, which he reck-

pound it put £7m worth of restructur- suffer from schools' lack of funding while ing costs through last year and this will progress in the overseas operations is slow. be repeated in 1998 as overheads are

products, drinks dispense, fluid power and special engineering, the later has been tak-sellers and avoid any cock-ups, it should ing the biggest knocks. IMI closed its York- prosper in what remains a growing shire Alloys subsidiary and further assets market. Brokers yesterday edged up in this area are earmarked for disposal. their profit forecasts for the current year

However, the positives outweigh the strategy will be continued in the second 14. Worth a look

Hydraulics of Sweden, and Wilshire Corporation of the US. It's remarkable to think back 20 years to when IMI was spun off from ICI. In

half of this year. The US and continen-

tal Europe are the more favoured regions

presence, buying the Swiss-based indus-

trial valve operations of Sulzer. It also

bought plumbing products group, TA

Last year IMI beefed up its foreign

at present .

those days 85 per cent of IMI's business came from the UK, now it is 30 per cent. IMI is doing all the right things. Even with the home economy tipped to slow further, analysts expect IMI will make

around £160m pre-tax profits this year. That would put the company, whose shares rose 8.5p to 458p yesterday, on a multiple of 15 times in line with the sec-

tor. The stock is worth holding on to.

Hodder books a 24% rise in profits

HERE'S an ironic story. Thrusting chief executive of a publishing company leads campaign to break price-fixing in stuffy industry. Despite vociferous opposition his efforts succeed, and three years on industry experts estimate the move has expanded the market by as much as 11 per cent. However, the spoils go elsewhere, the company stumbles and is forced to issue a profit warning and, over the same three-year period, the company's

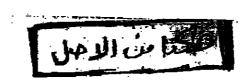
shares lose a quarter of their value. That's the story of Tim Hely-Hutchison, chief executive of Hodder Headline, who is still trying to convince the City that the 1995 warning was just a blip. Yesterday's solid 1997 results; showing pre-tax profits rising 24 per cent to £8.2m on a 6 per cent rise in comparable sales, will have offered some reassurance.

Although the number of new titles published slipped slightly, operating margins widened by more than a percentage point to 9.2 per cent as Hodder improved what Mr Hely-Hutchison calls the "batting average" - the amount of revenue Hodder can squeeze from each book.

Prospects are good, too. The autumn list, led by Edward Heath's memoirs and Will Carling's autobiography, looks strong. Mr Hely-Hutchison is also upbeat about the proliferation of book retailers ons are reinvigorating the market. How-In an attempt to counter the strong ever, educational publishing continues to

Of course, Hodder's fortunes are ultimately linked to the number of books Out of IMI's four core areas: building people want to buy. But, as long as the company can continue to pick large But IMI has also been protecting to £8.9m putting the shares, up 14p to itself with acquisitions and says this 239p, on a forward earnings multiple of

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Compass and Misys bid for Footsie membership

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

neck in a battle for membership of the exclusive Footsie club.

As the stock market closed Misys, with a 5p gain to 65p below their high. 2.682.5p, managed to open up a marginal lead with Compass off 2p at 915p. One, possibly both, will join the blue-chip index. In third spot but unlikely to force its way into conmortgage bank, little changed 12 month low of 512p.

day's closing prices provide the tions which will be presented casualty. to the Footsie steering

panded aggressively through acquisitions, has been as low their cut-off point. as 582.5p. The shares have

COMPASS, the contract year, drawing some support can have a significant impact the security and fire alarms Pearson jumped 49p to 992p day, overcame an early 14p fall caterer, and Misys, the com- from rumours of a takeover on a share. puter group, are neck and bid from Rentokil Initial, but are 13p below their peak. Misys shares have climbed

Dixons, the electrical retailer which has blown a fuse since it became apparent festive sales would disappoint, will almost certainly be relegated. tention is Northern Rock, the shares are bumping along at a dex covering the computer

It is now valued at £2.2bn The catering/computing with Compass and Misys both battle is too close to call. To- above £2.9bn. Rank, the basis for the crucial calcula- 332p, is another possible was a rather featureless ses-

committee when it meets indices, are important investment indicators for many 2,500 points for the first time. Compass and Misys have funds. Some tracker funds inenjoyed remarkable runs, The vest only in Footsie concatering group, which has ex-stituents; others use the revival, gaining 20p to 210p and supporting FTSE 250 index as

For example, on Friday Micro Focus arrived in the Federal-Mogul of the US. Micro Focus was up 40p on Friday and managed a 37.5p gain to 3,570p yesterday.

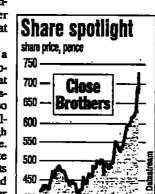
IT shares, including Micro Focus and Misys, have scored contrasting media displays. From 720p in November the from the introduction of an insector which was launched at the start of the year.

Footsie ended just a whisker below its peak, climbleisure group little changed at ing 36 points to 5,818.9 in what sion. Supporting shares also Footsie, and the supporting made headway with the smallcap index breaking through

> BTR, once a conglomerate now an engineer, continued its topping the blue chip leader board. Williams, another to

ing 388p. Figures are due today. Profits could approach midcap index, replacing T&N, £290m against £248m. But from a 1,111.5p low and are the engineer taken over by some of the gain was due to speculation it could accompany the results with the sale of its Nu-Tone US building ma-

terials business for £140. Reed and Pearson offered



day's sale of the troublesome at 515p. Mindscape business. Since the

Kluwer was called off.

Financials had a relatively quiet session although Legal & General, the insurer, jumped 32p to 697p as takeover rumours returned. Halifax, which has barged into the Birmingham Midshires takeover with a £780m offer, fell 12p to 925p. The BM ments from SBC Warburg. building society has agreed a £630m bid from the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Interim figures impressed but against £19m. there is also a sneaking suspicion the group will soon be the Communications climbed to

bracket, also gain 20p, reach- in further response to Fri- to close 17p (after 32p) higher

British Energy surged 23p disposal the shares have riscn to 454p after forecastings its 73p. Deutsche Morgan Gren- profits would be "at least" fell announced a 1,130p target f160m and not the £125m the Reed International rum- market expected. The higherbled 57p to 620p after the than-expected profits are due planned £17.5bn merger with to the way fuel prices have held Dutch publisher Wolters up at a time costs have been kept under control.

Asda jumped 8.5p to 197p on speculation the Safeway bid will come from J Sainsbury. Safeway rose 4p to 378.5p; Sainsbury's gained 10p to 480p.

Drugs group SkyePharma, figures on Thursday, gained 7p to 80p following positive com-Builder Tilbury Douglas

added 10p to 235p following a £15m water contract. Figures Close Brothers, the mer- are due on Thursday and chant bank, rose 45p to 726.5p. around £22.5m is expected On Ofex, Advance Digital

TAKING STOCK

PolyDoc, an information management company with share presence's on AIM and in Amsterdam, is having a remarkable run. Up 50p on Friday the shares climbed a further 37.5p to 232.5p. Year's figures are due soon and there are hopes the group wili produce a maiden profit.

Sell chemical group Hickson International, suggests Sutherlands, the stockbroker. **Analysis Martin Evans and** Catherine Haynes say: "Off skid row but still in the clinic, Hickson is only in early recovery." The shares are 85p.

Food group John Lusty rose 1.5p, equalling its 11.25p year's high. It has launched a breakfast cereal which is said to have been well received. Teather & Greenwood expect profits of £1.9m (£753,000).

Abacus Polar, an electrical component distributor, rose 10p to 136.5p after forging an alliance with a German group. The two will have a

	as 582.5p. The shares have moved ahead strongly this	Consequently, member- s ship, even of the midcap index,	flee the now unglamorous con- glomerate pack and move into	350 MAMJJASONDJFM	subject of a takeover strike. Norwich Union, figures to-	29.5p from its 20p placing price.	group. The two will have a £230m turnovec
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How Brown's Budget could muck up Britain's economic experiment



HAMISH MCRAE ON WHY **DEMAND IS** NOT A WORRY

BRITISH Budgets are not nearly as important as they are billed to be, but the one next Tuesday will be more important than most. It will be Gordon Brown's chance to muck things up.

The Budget last year was introduced when we were already three months into the inancial year and was inevitably limited in the scope of the changes that could be made. It would have been difficult to culture which has taken place have done anything that would have been seriously damaging to the economy, or indeed materially helpful to it. The budget deficit was narrowing in a satisfactory way, the economy was growing at a decent clip, unemployment was falling, there demand? I am sure he will be was very little inflation and the seriously concerned for one current account was in modest surplus. Not since the before the similar dangers signals was the First World War has a new chancellor inherited such an evidently agreeable combination. not sure, however, that he needs

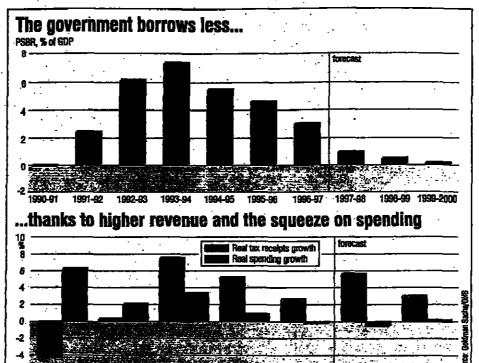
Now the picture is slightly different. The deficit is still narrowing, actually a little faster han before thanks to some is that he doesn't need to. modest tax increases and slightly faster-than-expected growth. about excessive demand be-Growth is still solid, unemployment still falling, inflation still under control - only the current material impact on demand is account seems to be heading so enormous as to be not worth sharply into deficit.

So, over the last nine months, while the Chancellor has been pondering what he should be job, most of the numbers have been improving. Borrowing is so low as to be almost non-existent. The top graph shows the way this has been falling, but the forecast there may be overly pessimistic. It is possible that on present trends - the govemment accounts will show a surplus in the financial year starting this April. That is thanks to the virtuous circle which occurs when there is decent economic growth: the growth increases tax revenues while cutting demand for government spending, for example on unemployment benefit see bottom graph. So the number one concern

of any chancellor - are the books balanced? - is not an issue. Number two concern is the state of the economy. Here the warning bell from the current account does show that we are close to the present limits of capacity utilisation. The warning bell might have come from inflation but it hasn't, partly because of the strength of sterling which holds down import prices and puts pressure on exporters to hold down their costs, but mostly because of the change in in wage bargaining. Inflation everywhere - in economies which are close to capacity and those which have lots to spare remains very low.

So how worried should Mr Brown be about excessive simple reason. Ignoring the key mistake made by Nigel Lawson in the late 1980s. I am to be so worried for two simple reasons. One is that he cannot do anything about it. The other

He cannot do anything cause the sort of level of fiscal tightening needed to make any contemplating. Changes in interest rates and other factors. affecting consumer confidence are vastly more important that doing to make his mark on the the odd few billion of changes in the government's taxing and



spending. And he does not need to do anything to check demand because either it will taper down of its own accord, or interest rates will whack up to such an extent that they will knock the boom on the head.

But if there is no problem on the accounting side and nothing much that can be done on the macroeconomic side, why did I start this column by saying that this is Mr Brown's opportunity to muck things up?

Because Britain has become an economic experiment, a forerunner of what more and more developed economies will tend to become during the next 25 years. Our macroeconomic position is boring: satisfactory, but boring none the less. Our microeconomic position is very interesting indeed.

Unusually, and in an unplanned way, we have concentrated the main weight of our economy in a small number of sectors. These include international finance (of course). telecommunications and media. a cluster of hi-tech industries including defence and pharmaceuticals, and a few "brandname" consumer industries. Chancellor will make some spe-There is, in addition, still a significant conventional manufacturing business, but that is not large by international standards.

No one decided 10 or 20

entire British motor industry to foreign interests. No one decided that we would create enormous pharmaceutical com- at the end of last year is fine in banks. On the other hand, no one also decided that we would the rest of Europe combined. All these changes have been in response to market signals, have accepted.

Question: will the myriad, detail changes in the Budget and this is Mr Brown's main shot at these - allow and encourage these market signals to continue to shape our economy? Or will they start to lean towards command and control? The worry of the more

thoughtful people in the busi-

ness community is not that the

management Rather, it is that he will make lots of small mistakes because he came to office with a rigid blueprint and hasn't years ago that we would sell the a flexible enough mind to realise that this needs to be changed. For example, the Individual Savings Accounts plan outlined

panies or sell virtually all our principle but as presently merchant banks to foreign constituted a clear disaster: cumbersome, expensive to administer, unfair. Will he change establish as large a venture it? Is he aware that the only net capital industry as the whole of creators of new jobs in the country are very small firms? Will, in practice, he make tax changes which tilt the balance which rightly or wrongly, we of advantage against small companies and in favour of large? In his (perfectly proper) zeal to close tax loopholes, will be simply encourage people to move even more of their activities offshore? Will he allow profitable businesses like our fine art salerooms to be damaged by EUimposed VAT levies? And so on.

The devil, this Budget, will lie in the detail. Fingers crossed.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



JON MOYNIHAN, who resigned as chairman and chief executive of PA Consulting last August, has just un-resigned.

In fact, despite headhunters being appointed to find his successor, Mr Moynihan never left office.

Let me explain. Mr Moynihan was at logger beads with the Butten Trust, set up by PA's founder Ernest Butten, over the share of profits allocated to former employees of PA. Mr Moynihan felt current employees weren't getting a big enough slice of the action.

Or, as Mr Moynihan put it yesterday, speaking from New York: "The matter over which I resigned got resolved just before Christmas in a way which I wanted it to be

Before the settlement, the Trust owned about 70 per cent of the "on-going value" of PA. Following the settlement, the Trust now owns some preference shares, which will provide income, and a "golden share" which will come into play if PA is ever sold. Apart from that, the current employees now call the

"Following this discussion with the board (of the Trust), we decided I should stay," adds Mr Moynihan.

Even the headhunter's fee has not gone to waste. The person who came top of the list as Mr Moynihan's successor has metamorphosed into the next chief executive of PA. Mr Moynihan will stay on as executive chairman, but believes the fast-growing firm needs a chief executive as well. Expect an announcement soon.

WORKS by Picasso, Warhol and many other artists will be on display at law firm Collyer-Bristow's gallery in Holborn, London, and every single one will be a fake.

The exhibition, imaginatively titled "Fake", kicks off appropriately enough on 1 April, and is designed to raise awareness of the threat posed by counterfeiters the world over to

The exhibition is the brainchild of Christopher Rennie-Smith, intellectual property partner at Collyer Bristow. It will feature fakes London.

of branded goods such as Nike shoes, Chanel No 5, Johnny Walker whisky and Pepsi. The law firm is part of the Anti-Counter-

feiting Group, which lobbies government on behalf of companies which own threatened brands or intellectual property.

Collyer-Bristow originally started holding exhibitions at their offices because they represented so many artistic chents. Now they have formalised the process, and even have a parttime curator, Tamar Arnon, who puts together a new show every six to eight weeks.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN may be making a hash of things in its relationship with its Andersen Consulting colleagues, but the firm can still hire good people.

Andersen has just taken on Carol Arrowsmith, a big noise in the world of employee share schemes and the like, as a partner in the firm's broadly based Human Capital Services team. Ms Arrowsmith joined New Bridge Street

Consultants, an advisory firm linked to lawyers Clifford Chance, as a director in 1986, and took over as managing director in 1990. She is also a director of ProShare, the organisation promoting share-based investment.

She will be working with Brian Friedman. world-wide head of Andersen's Human Capital Services practice, and himself a recent hire from Stoy Hayward, the accountancy firm.

Mr Friedman welcomed Ms Arrowsmith to the practice, saying: "We are already a multidisciplinary group with lawyers, actuaries, compensation and benefits specialists, taxation and change management experts offering a wide range of professional advice....

Great. Not a boring old accountant in

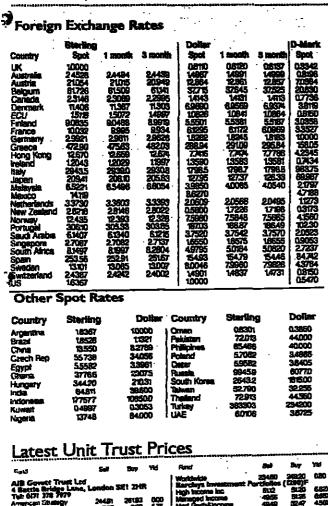
UBS continues to shed staff like a tree shedding apples in an autumn gale. Among those not going to merge with SBC Warburg are Patrick Kirby and Sue Cox, a media and a smaller companies analyst respectively, who have joined ABN Amro. And UBS's former head of European Equity research since 1994, Mark Howdle, has joined Salomon Smith Barney as director of Pan-European Strategy.

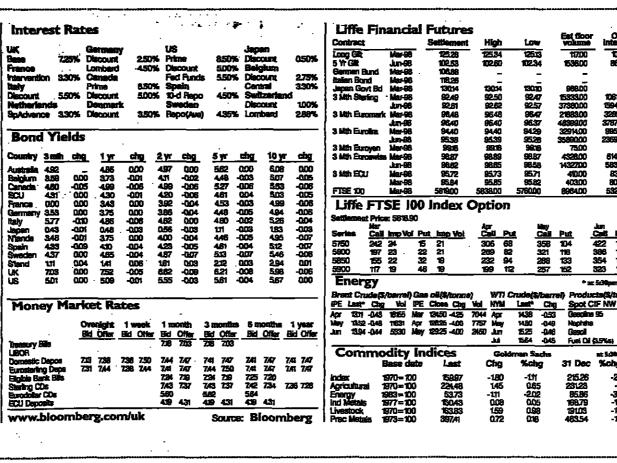
Not surprising, really, when you consider that SBC has taken 67 out of the 85 top jobs in merged equities division of UBS and Warburg Dillion Read.

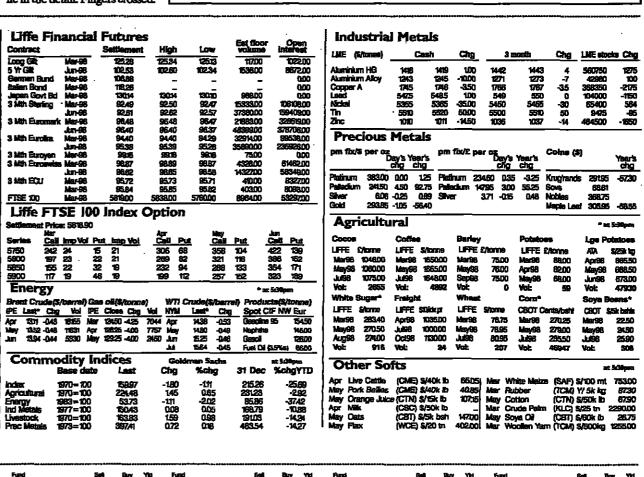
Another shotgun merger, that between CSFB and BZW, has provided ABN Amro with another recruit, Garbiella Sexton, who joins the Dutch investment bank as European Equity Editor.

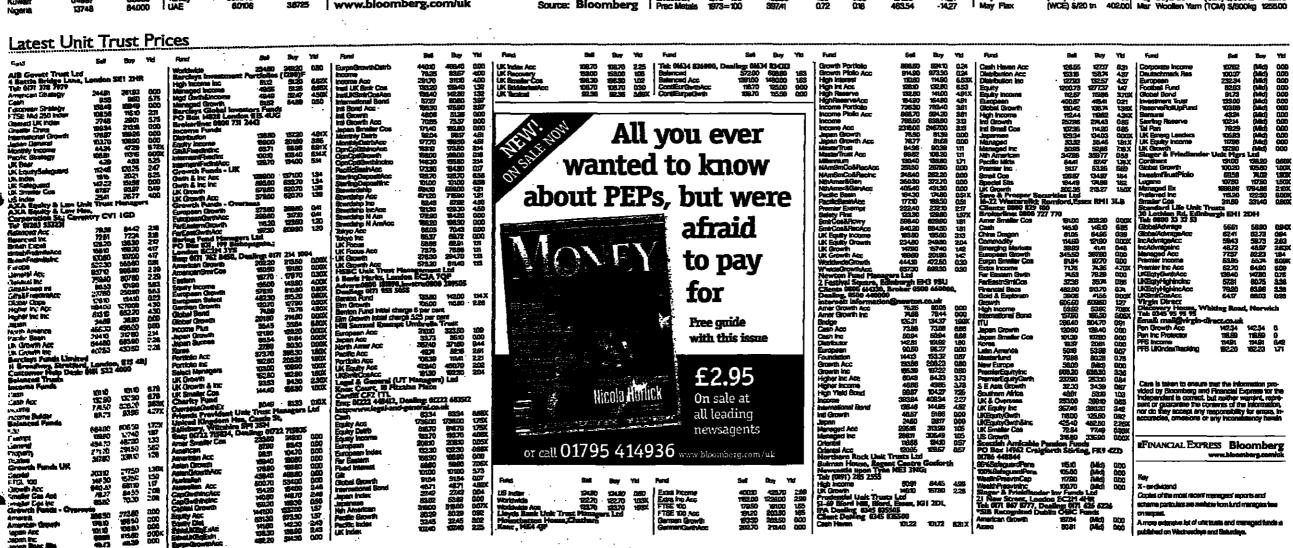
In fact, apart from ING, which seems to be reconsidering its investment in Barings, the Dutch are providing the best refuge for newly down-shifted bankers at the moment. Rabobank is reportedly seeking to recruit 700 capital markets people.

There again, First Chicago NBD have also taken someone on this week, in the form of Dr Giorgio Radaelli from Lehman Brothers. Dr Radaelli will bring a decade of experience as a market economist to First Chicago in









Coltart steps off Tour treadmill

brought glee to any self-resoap director, the European Tour left behind the previous- back to the airport yesterday for somes and five weeks off the quicker than it had arrived.

dury-free Dubai, where the pretaken place, and then the long

WITH a frenzy that would have Andy Farrell reports on the golfer who specting fly-on-the-wall docu- refuses to cash in on long-awaited success

h virginal fairways of Doha even a flight to Agadir for this week's Tour should do the trick. Moroccan Open. Life on tour is

vious week's tournament had Coltart. "I have played 12 of the last 14 weeks," he said. "I am overnight flight back to Gatwick. feeling fine, I could play in Mo-Most barely had time to un- rocco, but I am going to enjoy wrap another couple of spon- a break." A trip to Scotland, an sored polo shirts before heading outing in the Sunningdale Four-

Bradley secures great win despite putting blunder

MICHAEL BRADLEY made stroke on Sunday.

Bradley's one-stroke victory gives him a top 50 place in the world rankings issued vesterday. A native of Florida, he jumps 18 places to 37th after winning only the second PGA Tour said Bradley, 31. event of his career.

after his potentially devastating miscue, finishing with a one-un- happened [with the missed der-par 71 in strong winds on the Doral Resort's famous Blue Monster' course.

He sank his winning par shoe. putt from four feet at the final hole to finish at 10-under 278 here since 1985.

with a 67, and Billy Mayfair (69) tied for second on 279. Tiger holes. Woods compiled a final-round one-over 73, fading to a tie for ninth at 283 after finishing with a double-bogey, while Nick Faldo was 15 shots behind

Within a couple of hours of both an exhausting treadmill Andrew Coltart winning his and an exhilarating adventure. It maiden title at the Qatar Mas- is seductive, especially for the ters, the travelling circus was young and talented who have the

But enough is enough for

Bradley, who just last week an astonishing error when he was diagnosed with a herniatmissed an eight-inch putt at the ed disk in his back, earned 11th hole, but recovered to win \$360,000 (£240,000) for his the Doral-Ryder Open by one second PGA Tour victory, as well as an invitation to the

> "After that putt on 11 I wasn't sure what was going to happen, but I buckled down and hit some good irons coming in."

"I was fortunate I hit a good Bradley showed great poise drive on 12. That settled me down. I still don't know what putt]. I did my normal routine, hit a couple of practice strokes. It was a 360-degree horse-

Bradley, who started the day with a two-stroke lead, rat-- the highest winning score ed his victory the biggest of his career. His previous win came John Huston, who closed at the 1996 Buick Challenge, which was shortened to 36

> "A win is a win, but this is definitely more special, because it was 72 holes, the course was tough, the field strong and I had to do something special at the

There are two reasons for playing week after week on tour. One is because of good form: cash in while you can. The other is because of poor form: bound for a brief stopover in prospect of also becoming rich. keep playing and maybe next week will be the one it all

In the last year, Coltart has experienced both extremes. Last summer he was chasing a Ryder Cup spot, started missing cuts - something of a rarity when he finished seventh on the money list in 1996, lost confidence - messed around with his technique and so the downward cycle went on. "I should have taken a break earlier than I did. There was nothing wrong with how I was playing. The problem was between the ears."

Forced to miss the World Cup, in which he had become a fixture for Scotland in the previous three years, Coltart instead headed for Australia and won their PGA Championship for the second time. In nine tournaments, the 27-year-old Scot won Aus\$316,107 (£134,000) and was confirmed the winner of the order of merit prior to teeing off for his final round in Doha.

Despite wins elsewhere in the world, it is this first win on the European Tour that could be the making of him. Coltart had three times been a runnerup, an experience he described as "sickening". David Duval can also attest to that.

Like Coltart, against whom Cup match at Portmarnock, the American has constantly been in eight tournaments. in the "expected to win" category and finished second seven times before he won for the their long courtship with success first time on the US Tour last all the harder to bear. Coltart's October. He promptly won



the season-ending Tour Cham- fries and his father a low-hand- calm you need to be in." he played in the 1991 Walker pionship, and his victory in Tucson last month was his fourth

Both men are from golfing families, which probably made uncle was a founder member of three times in a row, including the Thornhill club near Dum-

icapper. Duval's father is a pro who made his debut on the US Senior tour last year.

self do it," he said. "It's just a times.

Over the winter, Coltart has

worked hard, not on his game, but on his attitude. Calm has Duval does not think there never been a word to describe was any particular secret to his him, but if he can continue to sudden turnaround. "You re- keep the red mists from getting alise you can do it, but you just in the way, there is no reason get out of the way and let your- Coltart cannot win many more

Leeds deny foul on use of reserves

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

LEEDS have denied that they are making a mockery of the Second Division by hiving off five players with Super League experience to their junior partners, Bramley.

The Leeds chief executive, Gary Hetherington, insisted reports that Terry Newton, Gavin Brown, Adam Hughes, Marvin Golden and Phil Cantillon were all joining Bramley were premature. "These are players who will not make our starting lineup, but we will need them at some stage during the season," he said. "We are not running an A team, but we want them to be playing rugby. They are available to other clubs, as well as to Bramley who, in any case, are only allowed three loan players."

Squad trimming by the new Leeds coach, Graham Murray, is likely to see last season's regular centre, Phil Hassan,

transferred to Halifax this week, while Super League clubs are being circulated about the availability of the prop forward

Warrington want to follow the lead of Wigan by moving to a new, all-seater stadium in their home town. The club's chief executive, John Smith, has opened talks with the council and sponsors about the need for a new ground if Warrington are to hold their own in Super League. "We are hemmed in on all sides at Wilderspool," he said.

Wigan, just 12 miles up the A49 from Warrington, are to press ahead with their plans for a custom-built ground that they will share with Wigan Athletic. following their shareholders' vote to allow Dave Whelan, the football club's chairman, to take over the rugity club.

Oxford will try to end a fouryear losing streak against Cambridge in the Varsity match at Richmond tonight. The referee will be Julia Lec, from Hull.

Ireland retain same team

Rugby Union

IRELAND will field an unchanged team in their next Five Nations' Championship game, against Wales at Lansdowne Road on Saturday week.

The new coach, Warren Gatland, has stuck by the squad which performed so well against France in Paris last Saturday, when they lost 18-16 despite being the 33-1 outsiders. The only alteration is the addition to the replacement's panel of Eric Miller of Leicester and Mark McCall of London Irish.

Miller was not considered for the French match because of a chest infection while McCall, who was suffering with bruised ribs, takes the places of Michael Lynch (Young Munster). A final decision on the composition of the seven-man replacements' panel will not be made until next week. The squad will assemble in Limerick next Sunday.

● The French winger Philippe Saint-André will return to league action for Gloucester this week after a four-month injury lay-off. The former French captain has played only 25 minutes for his English club since suffering a groin strain while leading France against South Africa last November. He tried to make a comeback in January against Wasps but had to go off with a recurrence of the injury. Saint-André has now been declared fully fit after playing in a Gloucester second-team game at Olney in Buckinghamshire at the weekend, and will turn out against Wasps at Kingsholm

PHILIPS



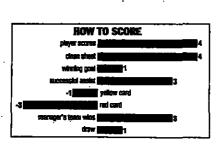
Today we publish the updated results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The league table includes all scores up to from all games played until March 8th. Neifinals in France this summer.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, February 28th. The player list includes scores i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 ther set of scores includes results from the FA bonns point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Cup. The overall winner at the end of the sea- Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead son will win a pair of tickets to the World Cup directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the following Sunday in the Independent on Sunday.



Independent Fantasy Football OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 8 MARCH

	LEAG	UE TABLE	-
	CALCULATED ON MATCH	ES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 28 FEB	RUARY
100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Mr D Edmington Mr D Baker Mr J Hayes Mr A Choudi Mr C King Mr D Sari Mr P Tulfer Mr D Aston Mr D Evans Mr J Cox Mr B Sari Mr Archer Mr I Boyle Mr A Wingrove Mr A Wingrove	Edmo United Deja Vu Early Birds Nikes 9th 11 Seeking Victory The Untouchables Pins Up 4 Billy Boy's 2nd 11 Boothen End Old Boys Southville F Simply The Best No Wright Wembley Bounders Tuny's Boys Diana's Demons	929 913 913 912 911 911 911 911 906 904 903 903
16 17 18 19	Mr S Scott Mr M Ewins Mr I Brown Mr M Ewins	Unheatable Mikes C Team The Hoofers I've started But Will I Finish	896 892 891
19 19 17 17 17	Mr M Ewins Mr A Mitchell Miss L Wild Mr A Mitchell	Mikes A Team The Eye For It Amerretto FC Nursery Park Rangers	890 890 888 883
ក្នុកក្នុក ក្	Mr S Scott Mr G Bell Mr Cummingham Mr D Ackroyd Mr S Aston	The Dream Team The Hairy Monsters The Zebra Jacks Lads Billy Boy's 3rd 11	883 883 883 882 881
30 31 31	Mr Brady Mr D Thomas Mr P Cridland Mr M Ewins	Look Lively Scunthrope Extras PDC2 Mikes B Team	879 878 877 877
33 33 35 36 36	No Name Mr J McCrossam Mr M Pawley Mr D Aston Mr J Cox	Leo Dis Washed Up Army Robert's Raiders Billy's Boys Retro Rovers	876 876 874 872 872
38 39	Mr T Brazier Mr D Baker	Wow For Short Dead Heat	870 868

Mr P Tufter

COALKEEPERS 40 Sept. 19 Sept. 10 Sept.	COALKEEPERS	CODE MAYER TEAM WE OF VALUE (On)	CODE PLATER YEAR WE OV VALUE (Em.)	COME PLOYER TEAM . WE OF TALES. (Day FLAXER	TRAM WE OF VALUE CUBE PLAYER TRAM WE OF S	ALE ALE
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Facts is 8-1 with William Hill _

Ladbrokes go just 4-1 - while Escartefigue, who might run in

the Gold Cup instead, is 7-1 with

William Hill - Ladbrokes offer

Coral go 10-1 - while Paddys

Return is 3-1 with William Hill

Darapour is 16-1 with the

just 4-1.

with the Tote for the Queen Tote for the Triumph Hurdle -

In the Royal & SunAlliance for the Stayers' Hurdle - the

ith samme team

His Song sets Irish standard

By Richard Edmondson

WHEN the great tumult goes up next Tuesday to announce thing that was asked of him and turns out to be a great horse is particular Festival. the first race of the Cheltenham he did run the favourite for the another day's work." Festival most of the crooners Champion Hurdle to a length

tine gelding is the beast exbut it might have been a flattery

those experiences do not appear

shire stable. "He is not all right pected to give the Irish or two. Three out they took a contingent spending money for pull and they slowed up half-way the rest of the week in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, If the chestnut does so, glasses will be likeable horse. He is physical-

ithe Festival's opening race. The mental stepping stones Irish standards. suggest His Song must win. At Leopardstown recently he went week, His Song is destined for cited about Cheltenham," he down by just a length and a half even greater things. "Anything he to the Champion Hurdle fav- does now is a bonus and he's ourite, Istabraq. QED.

along the back."

His Song is an extremely mised to the 31st Irish winner by imposing and prepared by a figure who is helpful even by

Whatever happens next done the business now for a Among the few that did not novice before going over fences," get carried away that day, how- Morris said. "It's very early days,

will be united by one horse, one and a half," Morris said yes- Cheltenham by now. He has two years ago, has succumbed Mouse knows the way to the Blue Riband over timber terday. "No matter what way won races at the Festival both to Illness like just about every The eponymous elephanyou like at it, it was a good run as jockey and trainer, though other inmate at Jim Old's Wilt-

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Salinger (Sedgefield 2.00) NB: The Brewer (Exeter 4.50)

to have dulled his anticipation for the conflict. "Christ I get exsaid. "It's a great meeting. It's the place."

It will, however, be an elued athletes in the Champion be like 48-hour flu," the train-

ever, was the chestnur's train-er, Michael "Mouse" Morris. special horse. He certainly has all Shot have had their supporters within 10 days and there is no "He jumped well and did everythe attributes, but whether he but will not have any more this way any of them are going to The former, the winner of

> and will not run in the Champion Hurdle," the trainer said yesterday. "In fact, I won't have any runners at the Festival."

Old likes to pretend he is unbacky but on this occasion he has no need to be a Thespian. Nine horses from Upper Herdswick Farm were meant to be at the crucible, but now the only heat Old will feel is in their foreheads. "The horses are completely wiped out and only three of the sive place for two well-regard- 45 have not got what seems to

Cheltenham. We have been very lucky this year, totally bugfree, and then suddenly wham."

Grey Shot's abrupt moment occurred on the Kingsclere gallops, an accident which removes the 20-1 shot from calculations. "X-rays have shown there is no the honour of being the meetlong-term problem, but he may ing's top jockey. have a rest and won't run over hurdles again this season," Ian Balding, the grey's trainer, said.

Grey Shot's absence means deserted the Jockey Club Cup winner for I'm Supposin in the be that price just to get inside Champion, can sleep a little easier in his bunk bed. Dunwoody
has collected such an array of
mounts for his Prestbury Park
portfolio that Coral make him
a short-priced favourite to win a short-priced favourite to win



Dunwoody: favourite jockey

Tony McCoy is second favourite, while Adrian Maguire is 9-2 to take the crown. Considering his recent Cheltenham that Richard Dunwoody, who fortune (Maguire has missed the last three Festivals) he should the Cheltenham ring road.

Fallon wanted for Change

4.30 LEVY BOARD 'NATIONAL HUNT' MAIDEN HURDLE

FORM GUIDE

Kieren Fallon, the champion when it won the City and Sub-

jockey, could team up again with urban Handicap at Epsom last Major Change in the first run- year. "Kieren gets on well with ning of the Teletext Winter the horse," the trainer said, "and Derby at Lingfield on 21 March. the Winter Derby is the ideal Fallon was successful on the race for Major Change. It's his Gay Kelleway-trained horse trip and he'll like the surface."

Aride Trophy (Novices') Chase (2m) Corel William Hill Lacturoless Chemplers (A Pipe) Direct Route (J.H.Johnson) 7-1 Cachantrol (A Dickle) dehesis Du Moulin (G Filchards) 8-1 7-1 Society (N Mescinitr) 12-1 aka Karibe (P Michole) 16-1

12-1

Each-way a cuarter the ocicle, pieces, 1, 2, 3 (Ch

Racing's futures market

OUEEN OF SPADES is a toppriced 20-1 for the Arkle Tro-

phy (Novices') Chase with

Ladbrokes - Coral offer just

12-1 - while Lord Dorcet is 50-1

Mother Champion Chase -

(Novices') Chase, Fiddling The Tote go 2-1.

Coral go just 25-1.

Cleany Lad (N Handerson)

Doesn Of Species (N Treston-Devies)

By Ian Davies

Champi	on Hurdi	e (2m ili	lyds) ·	
Horae (Bainer)	Cossi	Willem Hill	Lechrokse	Tota
letabreq (A.P. (/Brien/hl)	3-1	3-1	11-4	11-4
Dato Star (J M Jufferson)	8-1	6-1	5-1	8-1
Shadow Leader (C Egertori)	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Preach Holly (F Wurphy)	14-1	14-1	*8-1	12-1
Grimes (C Rochs(N)	20-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Pridwell (M Pipe)	20-1	20-1	20-1	. 15 -1
Kermel (N Teiglan-Davise)	15-1	25-1	20-1	20-
Reliant (I) Nicholaus)	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Sammentino (D Nicholson)	20-1	25-1	18-1	25-1

Queen Mothe	r Chan	ipion Chi	ase (2m)	
House (Rainer)	Corel	William (Hi	Ladbroksa	Tota
Agek Tom (T Tate)	5-2	94	84	94
Klairon Davis (A L T Moore/ir)	7-2	100-30	41	4-1
One Men (G Richerds)	41	9-2	41	4-1
Viking Flagship (D Nicholson)	9-2	5-1	5-1	5-1
Or Royal (M Pipe)	7-1	7-1	7-1	6-1
Celibale (C Mann)	33-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Lord Dorcat (J Charlion)	25-1	40-1	33-1	50-1
Flying Instructor (P Webber)	100-1	40-1	50-1	50-1
Green Green Desert (C Sharwood)	100-1	66-1	66-1	86-1
Indian Jockey (M Fipe)	100-1	66-1	86-1	66-1
Lightening Lad (G King)	100-1	66-1	100-1	80-1
Seek The Fuith (M Shapperd)	100-1	50-1	66-1	66-1

Royal & SunAllian	ıce (No	vices') Cl	hase (3m i	f)
Home (Trainer)	Coral	Willem Hill	Ladbrokes	Total
Florida Pearl (W Mulins/in)	64	54	6-4	7-4
Escartaligue (D Nicholson)	6-1	7-1	41	11-2
Fiddling The Facts (N Henderson)	6-1	8-1	4-1	11-4
Pulip (F Doumen/Fr)	14-1	12-1	10-1	12-1
Forest Ivery (D Nicholson)	16-1	16-1	14-1	14-1
Ottowe (P Nicholis)	14-1	12-1	doubtful	20-
Ask The Butler (M Pipe)	25-1	33-1	20-1	33-
Bitolambup (M Roberts)	33-1	Z5-1	doublisi	33-
Eulogy (R Rowe)	<u>50-1</u>	50-1	33-1	20-

Triumph Hurdle (2m lf)				
House (Rainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ledbrokes	Total
Zalarabad (D Nicholson)	4-1	7-2	. 72	7-2
City Hall (Mrs Y Ward)	14-1	· 12-1	12-1	12-1
Relevatch (M.Pipe)	14-1	14-1	10-1	14-1
- Decaposer (A.P. OSkinglet)	10-1	14-1	12-1	16-1
Iron County Xmas (D Welt/Art)	14-1	16-1	16-1	12-1
Rainbow Frontier (A.P.O'Brian/fr)	18-1	16-1	16-1	14-1
Emculive Decision (M Grassick/ht)	20-1	16-1	16-1	20-1
The French Fozze (M Pipe)	20-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Upgrade (N Twisturi-Devise)	15-1	20-1	20-1	25-1
Each-way a quarter the odds, p	laces, 1, 2, 3,	4 (Chellenhen, 1	Trunday, 19 Merch	,

Horse (Trainer)	Consi	WELTON HEE	n 2f 110yds Ladhmias	, Total
		AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 1		- INH
See lifere Business (P Nicholis)	8-1	7-2	7-2	3-1
Dorans Pride (M Houngan/iri)	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1
The Grey Monk (G Fichards)	10-1	8-1	10-1	8-1
Sony Bey (C Brooks)	10-1	11-1	8-1	11-1
Cyberge (M Pipe)	10-1	12-1	10-1	12-1
Rough Quest (T Casey)	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Addington Boy (G Richards)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Challenger Do Luc (bi Pipe)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Strong Promise (G Hubbard)	33-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Berton Benk (D Nicholson)	83-1	89-1	40-1	33-1

Horse (fireiner)	Comi	William (48)	Lachrobes	Total
Paddys Return (F Murphy)	5-2	3-1	5-2	2-1
Ocean Herek (N Tension-Davies)	5-1	6-1	5-1	41
Mighty Nices (D Nicholson)	10-1	B-1	B-1	8-1
Marello (Mrs M Revoley)	10-1	10-1	12-1	12-1
Splendid Thyne (T Casey	12-1	12-1	14-1	14-1
Buckhouse Boy (D Nicholson)	10-1	14-1	12-1	12-1
Karatil (Mass H Knight)	10-1	14-1	16-1	12-1

Results

NEWTON ABBOT 2.00: 1, CALLING WILD (Mr. J Tuzzer)
10-11 fast; 2. Minister Merio 2-1; 3. Bob De-vent 9-1. 6 ran. 5, dist. (F Nichols, Shiption Mallet). Total: 2200; \$200, \$120. Dual Fore-cest: \$200, Computer Statight Forecast: \$213. 2.30: 1, RAINBOW STAR (A P McCoy). 8-15 fav; 2. Blue Blazer 10-1; 3. Limit The Damage 9-2. 12 ran. 14 dat. (M Fine, Welling-ton). Tote: £180; £10, £170, £120. Dual Fore-cast: £400. Computer Straight Forecast: £702.

3.00: 1. ROVESTAR (Mr O McPhail) 6-1; 2. Winspit 15-2; 3. Northwin Saddler 12-1 10 ram. 3-1 faw Hold Your Ranks (Mh) 20, 5; (C Popham, Taunton), Totae 55-20; E190, 52-20, 52-40, DF: 52-370. Computer Straight Forecest 54491 Tinast: 547-380 Tito: 557-30. 3.30: 1. RICH TYCCOM (W Masslor) 12-1; 2. Bodo 2-1 it fars; 3. Forewer Dramining 8-1, 9. ram. 2-1 it far Knightsbridge Scot (4th), 7, 8. IF Rich, Usid: Totae: 52000; 5430, 5440, 5270. DF: 52090. Computer Straight Forecast: 534-28. Tito: 533-40. 4.00: 1. SCOTIBY (B Powel) 9-4 far; 2. Banny Hill Lad 13-2; 3. Cross The Rubi-com 25-1, 11 ram. 8, 3. (R Buddler, Bridgort). Totae: 5280; 5210, 5250, 5530. DF; 51360. Computer Straight Forecast: 54852. Tric: 3.00: 1. ROVESTAR (Mr O McPhail) 6-1;

4.30: 1, BULLENS BAY (B Femon) 7-2; 2. Newton Point 10-1 7 ran (2 finished) 2-5 fav Beimorebruno (pulled up), 5, (6 Lleweilyn, Bargoed), Tota: \$480; \$180 \$230 DF; \$1840 Computer Straight Fore

cast: 23196.
A.OC: 1. PERFECT FELLOW (G Shenkin)
4-1; 2. Seef 5-4 fev; 3. Guiffible Gay 5-4, 8
ren. 20, 8. (M Weeden, Weymouth). Taber
FABC: E10, E170, E130, DF: E410. ComputStraight Express C. COST. er Straight Forecast: £985.

Jackpot: £7;00.00 - part won, Pool of £6,982.27 carried forward to Exister today. Placapot: £54.20. Quadpot: £35.20. SOUTHWELL

SOUTH-WELL

1.45:1, SEA SPOUSE (Date Globon) 8-1;
2. Kass Albave 7-2 far; 3. Johnnie The Joher 8-1, 12 rist. 11/4, 11/4. (M. Blansherd, Upper Lambourn). Tota: \$5-50; 23:80, \$140, \$230. Dr. \$2200. CSF: \$2285. Thoust: \$2821. Trio: \$55:30.
2.15:1, RUSSIAN RULLER (D. Sweeney), 7-1; 2. Andaman 18-1; 3. Ancid: \$1ar 11-2, 6 ran. 31/4, 6. (A. Jarvis, Didcot), Tota: \$220; \$2320, \$25:0. Dr. \$25:20. CSF: \$2821.

INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS LEICESTER 971 981 972 EXETER 982 SEDGEFIELD 973 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

2.45: 1. JARAAB (S Whitworth) 11-4; 2.

Piserly Dencer 5-1; 3. Mister Aspecto 17-10 fax. 7 ram. 2, 21/s. (Miss S Wilton, Stoke-on-itent) Tota: £310; £180; £250, DF: £840, CSF:

3.15: 1. DEPRECIATE (K Darley) 9-4 test;

3.15:1. DEPRECIATE (K Darky) 9-4 far; 2. Ziggy's Dancer 11-2.3. Palacagain Touch 12-1.10 ran. 1/k, hd. (T D Barron, Thirek). Toke 25:51: £150, £20. £230. DF: £580. CSF. £1378. Treast: £19.25. Tric: £5820. 3.45: 1. GREEN BOPPER (C Lowther) 14-1: 2. Bold Faith 7-4 far; 3. Bear Roberte 20-1.11 ran. 4, 7. (G Woodward, Newark). Toke: £1860; £350, £150, £380. DF: £2260. CSF: £3728. Trics:£ £48649. Tric: £2270.

4.15: 1, MUSTN'T GRUMBLE (K Falor) 5-1; 2. Pine Ridge Lad 7-1; 3. U-No-Har-ry 11-4 fax, 12 ran, Nr. 7-, (Mas S Witton, State-on-Territ Tota: 2560; 2140, 2520, 2170 DF: £4130, CSF: £4260, Thir: £5030.

DF: £4130, CSF: £4280, Tric: £50,50,
445: 1, GROWEFAIR LAD (C'Reque) 7-1;
2. Field Of Vision 11-4; 3. Spick And Span
10-1.11 ran. ½, 3½, (S R Bowring, Manshald),
Yota: £346; £320, £10, £250, DF: £2240,
CSF: £2527, Tricest £1536, Tric: £3490,
5.15: 1. RIVER CAPITAIN (C Lowtier)
20-1; 2. Kortareyev Dencer 8-1; 3. Polser
School fil-2 10 ran. 2. ½, (D Murray Smith,
Upper Lambourn), Tota: £3450; £250, £270,
£210, DF: £5580, CSF: £4688, Threset-

Upper Lambourn), Total \$24.50; \$790, \$2 \$210. DF; \$159.90. CSF; \$164.83, Trick

Placepol: £552.90. Quadpol: £4750. Place 6: £440.25. Place 5: £192.80.

£382,68. Thio: £254,00.

Sheilah Hern dies at 70

HYPERION

Left-hand, undulating course. Easy fences and long run-in on chase course of 500yde.
 Course is to SE of fown or junc of ASSS and AT7. Stockton (Sm) or Durfrem (22m).
 ADMISSION: Paddock £3 (OAPs £4); Course £2 CAR PARK: Paddock £2, rest free.
 LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley — 70 winners from 230 runners gives a success ratio of 293%; G M Moors 20 from 120 (167%); J H Johason 20 from 170 (168%); J Waste

● LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 53 wins from 176 rides gives a success ratio of 301%; L Wyer 22 from 110 (20%); A Oobbin 15 from 150 (10.7%); J Supple 14 from 78 (17.9%).

FAVOURITIES: 232 wins in 600 races (38.7%).

BLINKERED FIRST TME: Brave Edwin, Drumdonna (2.00); Val De Rassa (viscred), Wood-

2.00 J WADE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,000 2m 1f Penalty Value \$1,506

HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 2m 1f Penaity Value £1,606
-240 CRAIGARY (28) (CD) (Imaes A Cringm) bits A Switcher 7 to 11 ... W Dowling £3
-200 CRAICARRAGH (18) (Aliss of Rowland) bits of Rowland 8 to 8 ... P Midgley
10529 RAMNIAM (850) (D) (G Gary Satture) D McCain 10 11 4 ... B Harding
2240 THE BOOZING BRIEF (85) (bit & Mrs RA Green) C Parter 5 to 13 ... E Callagham B
105000 SALINGER (20) (Alise D Scient) J Parter 10 to 12 ... M Heart B
100006 MEMBERS WELCOME (14) (W H Traing) 10 11 ... Canadian V
10000 MEMBERS WELCOME (14) (W H Traing) 10 14 ... N Heart B
100006 MEMBERS WELCOME (14) (W H Traing) 10 14 ... N Heart B
100006 MEMBERS WELCOME (14) (W H Traing) 10 14 ... N Heart B
100000 SEACON HELL (ADY (200) (Philp Schord) 2 Electric 10 0 ... Milliand Bramma
100000 SEACON HELL (ADY (200) (Philp Schord) 2 Electric 10 0 ... B Graine 8
15-00P PUBLIC WAY (73) (M Chamberlas) N Chamberlas 8 to 0 ... B Graine 8
15-00P PUBLIC WAY (73) (M Chamberlas) N Chamberlas 8 to 0 ... B Graine 8
15-00P PUBLIC WAY (73) (M Chamberlas) N Chamberlas 8 to 0 ... B Graine 8
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FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

MEMBERS WELCOME defect being 5b out of the handcap to soone by a comfortable four language from One Soo on and ground at Capteriot, with Sallages (quit of form since) beaten amount six language, that and interpolations, and beat. The first second quart only on an experience of the property of the new control to an one will be not represent the second of the second of

a handcap With platentyleriot, can score again. The Stopping Shiel, rigisie-up if a citi-ple of juvenile hurdes lest sesson, was hearing his fast run in seven scoretis when sev-ents to Den De Man at Newcastie in December He will appead the the drop in clave. Buildin Felcerregh may find this more testing surface against him after be close second to Lib-le Not at Felcenham. That was this fast hurdes run in this country but he had had a warn-up on the all-weather. Craigary has found the tougher after wins here in November and at Catterick the following month. The drop back to selling company will pain. Pasies Be-has been well beston on the all-weather but showed enough in fourth to in Good-Faith at Cartmel in May to suggest he can play a role. Selection: MEMSERS WELCOME

2.30 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £2,910

— 13 decimal — inum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Reve-On-Heckey Set 15th, But

4.00 Woodbridge

4.30 into The Black

5.00 No Gimmicks

Sheilah Hern, the wife of the and Sheilah helped me for 41 For the first time Cheltenham retired trainer Dick Hern, died years. She was quite a successon Sunday at the age of 70, "My ful owner. Her best horse was wife died yesterday after a Cabin Boy. I managed to win long fight against cancer,"

Fiern said. "We were married in 1956 jumps with him."

Sedgefield

3.00 Balleswhidden

2.30 Noddle

3.30 For Cathai

2.00 Members Welcome

one race on the Flat with him

been introduced for each day of vance has got across so well to but Captain Forster won 13 over this year's Festival to ensure the 50,000 enthusiasts who will greater comfort for racegoers. be coming to Gold Cup day." Lungots renner on 20 worse terms. Attrochelde Lad is interesting too, as he had fallen at the first on his reappearance after missing test season, so is open to more improvement than most, literature Of the Rock best Kinde Groovy three-quarters of a length over course and distance (good to firm) last time and is just 30 higher now. Thet represented a return to form for the nine-year-old and he can go close providing the still handles this easier going. Topothenonthracting, besten six lengths by Robingo at Musselburgh in Junuary, went one better at the same course last time, besting What Jim Warts a length. Lord Retilat flopped at Musselburgh lest time but had shown that stamins is a strong suit when winning or the soft at Carilliae praiciously. Notice was last of the when a warm favourite then, losing his action and feding quickly after being headed two out. Doclarastan's recent form is poor but he has dropped to a good mark.

Selection: GRUNGE

Gold Cup day has completely director of Cheltenham, said

sold out in advance. A limit of vesterday: "We are delighted

50,000 badges and tickets has that the message to book in ad-

Gold Cup Day is a sell out

3.00 FRANK SCOTTO MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C)

	TO OUR SUCCES THE LIVYUS LESSEN ARTHR TO OLD	
332325	BRANKS EBERRY (17) (0) (Hempers Recing) Mas S Smith 9 to 11	R Gas
212F44	. SPERENCE EDGE (14) (D) (G) Graham) T Easierby B 11 7	LW
	SELVER MINOX (21) (CD) (Mrs E A Kettlewell) Mrs M Reactey 6 11 7	
	BALLESWHIDDEN (7) (D) (BP) (T Staunton) R Fahry 6 ft 1	
30P0F	COME ON RISK ME (26) (Herry Ormester) D McCain 7 11 1	T Jeni
	LAST TRY (7) (0) (8F) (H.) Herenbergi 8 Robert 7 tj 1	
	OUT BY NIGHT (B) (A J Couplend) G M Moore 7 11 1	
	TRIONA'S HOPE (14) Als Karen Woodhead E Caine 9 to 1	
	BRANCEPETH BELLE (46) (N B Meson) N Meson 8 10 10G	
	- B speciment -	,,

FORM GUEDE

BRAMBLEBERRY can get back to wirning ways having gained the last of four chasing successes at Market Resen in September. Sue Smitts nine-year-old has held his form restly well and it was lack of stamina on quite testing ground that saw him well beaden in the good novice chase won by Super Coin at Chopstow [2m 38] last time. Before that he had run a binder from 16th out of the hendicap to be second to Cumbrien Challege at Wetherby and, back at two miles in ordinary novice company, should be able to concade the weight, Shinking Edge had Shev Mitor shroots It lengths behind in fourth when beating Fryup Satellite at Catterick in November, but he has not reproduced the form be showed in whining four hundles last season. Shrings Edge reverted to hundles at Doncaster last time, frishing a craditable fourth to Nordence Prince, but he needs to improve over lences if he is to best Brambioberny in receipt of just 4b. Balleanheiddian, sk langths second to Royal Crimson at Catterick last time, holds Last Try on that form and can prove best of the others.

SEARS DANGER BARY (20) Shak Recing) P Sown 8 11 2.

1PHF CHEPFOR OUT (26) (2) Domin String M Schurter 8 11 2.

F-1PO OVER THE DEEL (17) (2) (3) (George Tobb) JH Johnson 2 10 1.

F-264 CONSTRUCTURE (19) Line (Record) May 5 50th 11 20 9.

2804. TOBBOAT SEA (26) LID Recording May 15 Condition 8 10 5.

4 PART DANK COM (26) LID Recording May 15 Condition 8 10 5.

4 PART DANK COM (26) LID Recording May 10 5.

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2805. TOBBOAT SEA (26) LID RECORD MAY 10 5.

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2807. TOBBOAT SEA (26) LID RECORD MAY 10 5.

2808. TOBBOAT SEA (26) LID RECORD MAY 10 5.

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2809

CHIPPED OUT, unbeaten in four completed starts over fences this season, is well worth a chaince trying this trip for the fixt drie. Three of his four wire have come at around the two-and-half-mile mark, including his recent success at Carliste first start going right-handed), where he reads all for an pasy sight-length verdict over Kerenastino, but he showed that assemble test skills when beeing Committed Schedule 27 lengths on very soft ground at Heinham (2m ti) in December. Chipped Out is still a step alread of the handcapper and will be difficult to beat. Overflowing River came out best in a tight, four-way finish over this trip at Market Rasen last time by a neck from Spirit, with Coverdale Lase under two lengths back in fourth. They are closely matched again, but the softer gound is against Overflowing River, while Coverdale Lase ran poorty against Duids Brook at Haydock last time. Danger Beby, in great form in the first part of this season, her refused on his lest two runs and is one to watch. For Cathel has beate Strickels a neck and then gone down by two lengths to him in novice hurdles at Newcastle and here this season. The winning little points, successful if a Newcastle novice class has beated. CHEPPEN OUT.

3.30 MCEWAN'S DURHAM NATIONAL (HANDICAP CHASE) (CLASS C) £15,000 added 3m 4f Penalty Value £10,601

1755 NODOLE (22) (C) (C) Gabasity Lungo D'11 10 R Supple 100-UP VERYVEL (91) (J) Nodols J Nodo 7 18 R Supple 100-UP VERYVEL (91) (J) Nodols J Nodo 7 18 R Supple 105-ST TOPOTHENORTHENORTHEN (25) (C) Footon Twenty P Beaumont 8 11 4 L B Creiton (5) 105-ST MASTER OF THE ROCK (13) (CD) pins 3 Admed J Medics 9 11 2 E Hasband (3) V 105-STARS (NRDA GROOMY (13) (CD) (BF) (J) Party I Part 9 11 2 N Williamston B 10-STARS (NRDA GROOMY (13) (CD) (BF) (J) Party I Party 9 11 2 N Williamston B 10-STARS (NRDA GROOMY (13) (CD) (BF) (J) Party I TATA 9 11 2 N Williamston B 10-STARS (NRDA GROOMY (13) (CD) (BF) (J) Party I TATA 9 11 2 N WILLIAMSTON (L) N W

FORM GUIDE

GRUNGE ran very poorly when pulsed up at Ludlow less time but is given the chance to make emends having dropped to a low mark. On his final start test sesson, he landed a time-mile Yowcester handloap hurdle by a length and a half from Entellasi off a 100 high-or mark than boday's Grunge should not be return at the same courte, where he was with to Danger Flyrm, that he retains his ability and this stamins test will be right up his street. There are plently in form hare, including Arctic Fox, who has won two of his lest three he was all out to hold Noddle over three miles at Catterick (Citisodraide Lad a one-paced fourth, about ten lengths back) and may struggle to confirm placings with Lan

10 2PPSP UPTRETEMPO (47) P Fanel 9 10 0 L Herwy
12 PPGOS LADY PERCHAGON (22) N Grain 9 10 0 M Sharrati.
12 -05500 GOLDEN LUX (53) K Burle 5 10 0 R Thornton.
13 000PDP SHARH OF BLAKENEY (13) S Kright 7 10 0 D Salter (3) Y
14 44-04 LOMELANK (42) R Brotherion 9 10 0 M Salter (3) Y
15 PAGEP MILLY LE MOSS (82) M Shapperd 9 10 0 Mr A Holdenwick (5)
18 00-PD0 PRUSSIAN BAGLE (13) K Balby 6 10 0 M William (7)
19 00-PD SEE MINISTON (54) Miles S Walenmain 5 10 0 M William (7)
1-18 declared — 18 declared — - 18 disclared -BETTMC: 7-4 Hold Buster, 5-1 Santacta Storm, 11-2 Emparter Buck, 6-1 Talou It Easy, 8-1 Tied For Time, 10-1 Measured Step, 12-1 others

ROBIN AND JOHN SIMPSON MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 25,000 2m 5f Penalty Value 23,574

CPIASE (CLASS E) ESCUO 2III SI PERBITY VERICE 23,374

1453 GAELC BILLE (21) (D) (I Hermitopi) Na S Shith 8 II 10 ... R Guest
1453 WOODBRIDGE 209 (RF) (Naley Packhola Racrog F Murphy 9 II 4 ... P Carbory B
1953F HAB'S WOV (RS) (Nic A O'Saleur) M Tochunier 6 II 3 ... J Callaghan
16532 VAL DE RAMA (13) (CD) (RF) (D Mortand) D Shith 9 II 2 ... P Nicro V
1654 TOCO GOLD (20) (Naley Murphin Mr. J Brown To 10 8 ... G. Gillen V
1654 TOCO GOLD (20) (RD) (A Myprianou) J Briesti II 10 5 ... L O'Ham

FORM GUIDE

INTO THE BLACK, full-brother to into The Red, won a bumper on soft ground at Hexham last season and has shown enough, athrough well beaten, behind Revolt at Wetherham last season and has shown enough, athrough well beaten, behind Revolt at Wetherby (Billy Buckaldin talled off) and Samuel Wilderspin at Doncaster to suggest he will win
tria. He shapes like an out-and-out stayer and faces wask opposition. Sam's Champagne
has struggled since a third to Glesbower at Wetherby in November but might not need
to improve on iest times ninth of 15 to Viprano at Newcastle, beaten 24 lengths, with Dwid's
. Way tailed off, to pick up place mopey, Profit And Lose tacks a recentions but is end:
ded to respect on the pick of her bumper form, while Scottpail Boy can improve on his
recent debut behind Kris Green at Newcastle and Flose The Bose has hinted at possessing enough ability to have an each-way chance.

Selection: NTO THE BLACK 5.00 STANLEY RACING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m St 110yds Pensity Value £2,530
3:225 MO GRANICKS (39) (II) (John Smits List) J FiziSmid 6 11 8.
4:185 OLD HUSH WING (P17) (CD) (John A Birley) P Hesten 5 11 8.
3:30/EH (18) (The Galoping Purised P Bous 16 11 8.
4:2001 TOTEM FOLE (21) (CD) (John S McDonath Mis M Reviely 5 11 8.
4:000 BRANISSEY MISSTER (22) (MR P A H Heritary) P Beautron 17 11 2.
4:000 EPICA (45) Despose Mer Razing Syndicate) F Murphy 7 11 2.
4:00 EPICA (45) Despose Mer Razing Syndicate) F Murphy 7 11 2.
4:010 EPICA (45) Despose Mer Razing Syndicate) F Murphy 7 11 2.
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4:010 EPICA (45) (45) Mer March (45) Mr Syndif 6 10 11 4.
4:010 EPICA (45) (45) Mr Beine Mr Spring F Beaumont 6 10 11 4.
4:010 EPICA (45) (45) Mr Beine Mr Spring F Beaumont 6 10 11 4.
4:010 EPICA (45) (45) Mr Beine Mr Spring F Beaumont 6 10 11 4.
4:010 EPICA (45) Mr Beine Mr Spring F Beaumont 6 10 11 4.
4:010 EPICA (45) Mr Beine Mr Spring F Beaumont 6 10 11 4.
4:010 EPICA (45) Mr Beine Mr Spring F Beaumont 6 10 11 4.
4:010 EPICA (47) Mr Beine Mr Beine Mr Spring F Beaumont 6 10 11 4.
4:010 EPICA (47) Mr Beine Mr Beine Mr Spring F Beaumont 6 10 11 4.
4:010 EPICA (47) Mr Beine Mr Beaumont 6 10 11 4.
4:010 EPICA (47) Mr Beine added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £2,530 ⊥₩ye _ASSmitt — 16 deciand — — — — A Dobbin BETTING: 11-4 Totem Fole, 7-2 No Giramicks, 9-2 Seyeh, 6-1 KR Smartin, 8-1 Taxiles Bible, 10-1 Old Hash Wing, 16-1 Madge McSphert, 20-7 others

MO GIMMICKS can prove good enough back on soft ground. Jimmy FitzGerald's run oer impressed in beating Brush Me Up 29 lengths at Market Resen on his reeppearance and went on to run Ardronen to two lengths at Westerby. No Gimmicks again for mod lightly behind twor's Flutter at Ascot in January but was no match for smart Unanioable. many person vors ritues at Asco, in Saruary Dut was no match for smart Untarheble Baser on good ground at Donoaster. Totaem Fole was well beaten at Donoaster but broke his duck over course and distance lest time by seven lengths from Rusk. The better ground helped, so this going could be a problem. Kit Smartle followed his Huntingdon win in a conditional localys' handicap with a good third to Over The Beck at Musselburgh (3m) and must be teared. The longer this should suit Sayeth, who railed garnely to deal-heat with Limelight at Teuriton on his recent hundling debut, but Tindles Bible seems to tack a turn of tool.

2-2P1 EDMOND (74) (D) T Forster \$ 11.4...

4.20 EGGESFORD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000 added 3m 2f

O MAKHPIYA PATAHN (31) J Malins 6 to 12 David Terreer (7)

Exeter HYPERION 2.20 Urban Lily 2.50 Bold Buster 3.20 NOW WE KNOW (nap) 3.50 Headwind 4.20 Mecmorts (nb) 4.50 Mutanessib

GOING: Good to Soft

Both-hand, unclusting course. Stiff test of stamins.

Course is Sin SW of Exister on A38, ADMISSION: Grandstand

Prodock I'll: Siver Ring I'S CAR PARKE 22 on rails; rest free.

EADING THAINERS: 18 Pipe — 67 winners from 284 runners
gords a Success rails of 254%; little H Kright 33 from 10 (50%);

P Hobbs 27 from 28 (2114); R Frost 17 from 136 (25%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 27 wins from 125 rides gives
a success ratio of 215%; B Powell 9 from 125 (59%); C Lieusellyn
7 from 61 (1154); S Burnough 6 from 83 (72%).

FAVOLINITES: 198 wins in 511 races (38.7%).

ELANCERED FREST TIME: franctstopte (220; Bet Your Boots (250;
Camiffee Legecy (250).

2.20 CHAGFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) mares £2,000 2m 2f

2.50 STEVENSTONE AMATEURS NOVICE HURDLE (E) £3,000 2m 3f 110yds

3.50 SOUTH WEST RACING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

3.20 TOTE HALDON NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 27,500 added 3m 6f

| CLASS U.S. SQUEUT | STORE | SQUEUT | STORE | SQUEUT | STORE | SQUEUT | SQ - 2 declared -SETTING: 3-2 Headwird, 3-1 Gerefreen, 4-1 Holds Mind, 7-1 Na A Gern, 10-1 Wilson, 20-1 Camillas La Holdinclose, 6-1 Keep No in Has Legecy, 25-1 Bridge Nan

9 025-25 RHOMAN FUN (14) R Buckler 9 10 12 Power 10 330-65 BALLY LIRA (5) P Buckler 9 10 12 Power 10 330-65 BALLY LIRA (5) P Redicted 8 10 7 Shurrough —10 declared — BETTING: 2-1 Edmond, 9-4 Mecmonis, 9-2 Looks Like Trouble, 6-1 Kriscille en Puo, 25-1 Bally Lita, 25-1 Spirit Level, 33-1 oth 4.50 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 2f 21F11- SON OF ANSHAM (864) (D) Mrs M. Jones 5 12 D F-5354 BALAMAK (83) D Gendolfo 7 tl 10 rage Set 100; BETTING: 5-2 The Brewer, 3-1 Mutemassib, 7-2 Sec C anal, 12-1 Rich Life, Green Island, 25-1 Glen Minage

Leicester

HYPERION 2.10 Reign Dance 2.40 Hawalian Youth 3.10 Coolvavin Lady 3.40 Teeton Mill 4.10 True Fortune 4.40 Principle Music

 Right hand undulating course Run-in of 250yds.
 Right hand undulating course Run-in of 250yds.
 Course is 2m SE of city off A6 Leicester station 2m, ADMISSION: C0 (DAPs C5) Free stockards. CAR PARK: Free Siker Ring Car Park: 100 author and anot love occurrents. SION: CO (CAPE CS: Free nicecards. CAR PARK: Free Sher Ring Car Park. Fit? admits car and four occupants.

• LEADING TRAINERS: T Forster - 5 winners from 25 runners rives a success ratio of 70%. H Manners 4 from 7 (571%); R Lee 4 from 10 (211%); P Hisholds 3 from 6 (50%).

• LEADING JOCKEYS: Mr 8 Polack: 2 wars from 8 fides gives a success ratio of 222%. Mr P Hacking 1 from 2 (50%); Mr D S Jones 1 from 3 (333%). Or P Prinched 1 from 5 (50%).

• FANOURITEE: 86 wars of 281 races (845%).

BLINGERED FREST TIME. Another Comedy (240).

2.10 QUEENS ROYAL LANCERS MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (H) 52,500 2m 4f 110yds

Mr T McCarrity (5) PONZ/ WINTERS COTTAGE (PS75) (87) & Lloyd 10 12 7... 7 0-2P23 SINGH SORIG (P10) R Chandler 8 12.2 ____ Nor M. No.

BETTING: 9-4 Reign Dance, 3-1 Dalametra, 7-2 Rayman, 13-2 Not To Be Treated, 7-1 Daplot, 12-1 Steph Song, 25-1 Winters Cottage 2.40 LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY AMA-TEUR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F)

£4,000 2m 4f 110yds HANNAKAN YOUTH (15) (D) (BF) G McCourt 10 12 0 3-50-Q JUST BRUCE (12) (G) Was E Heath 9 11 6 _ Mas F Needham (7) 1221- EASTEIN RIVER (271) (20) T Fociar 2 11 1 Jin R Waldey (2) 43555 July Vol. Extrac (12) (0) Dr P Prichard 2 107 6253FO NATIVE VENTURE (28) (D) T Chary 10 10 2

6 390-PO ANOTHER COMEDY (14) R Les 8 100 ... Mr O McPheil (5) B
— 5 deciared —

Minimum weight: 10st. The Nancicap majorist: Arcetor Comedy 9st 4b.

BETTING: 9-4 Nancillan Youth, 11-4 Eastern River, 7-2 Jim Velantina, 4-1

Just Brates, 8-1 Matter Venture, 33-1 Another Comedy

3.10 SHERWOOD RANGERS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) 52,500 2m 4f 110yds 2-538 COCUMUNI LADY (13) (5) W Halday 9 11 10 Jin 9 R Poster (7) 507-75 DIKKES MENOOW (72-6) A Very 8 11 10 Jin 9 R Poster (7) FR/2 PONDASRIA (11) (5) H Manners 8 11 10 Jin 6 Poster (7) FR/2 PONDASRIA (11) (5) H Manners 8 11 10 Jin 6 Poster (7) FR/2 PONDASRIA (11) (6) H Manners 8 11 10 Jin 6 Poster (7) FR/2 PONDASRIA (11) (7) H Manners 8 11 10 Jin 6 Poster (7) FR/2 PONDASRIA (11) (7) H Manners 8 11 10 Jin 6 Poster (7) FR/2 PONDASRIA (11) (7) H Manners 8 11 10 Jin 6 Poster (7) FR/2 PONDASRIA (11) (7) H Manners 8 11 10 Jin 6 Poster (7) FR/2 PONDASRIA (11) (7) H Manners 8 11 10 Jin 6 Poster (7) H M A Charles Inner (7) 5 ORP425 RED LIGHT (US) (D) M Nurphy 6 T) TO ...Mr P McAllister (7) B
BEST INNS: 11-10 Cookern Lady, 3-1 Postabele, 7-2 Parsons Brig. 10-1
Red Light, 13-1 Dates Meedow

3.40 FAIRWAY BOOKMAKERS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £5,000 2m 71 110yds 6 U15-11 PRECARBUM (P24) (D) Mis N Sheppard 10 11 7

UP-203 SPUFFINGTON (12) N J Pondet 10 11 7

Lift J Tim J M Pritchard (7) Life J Tarmo (7)

=8 declared = SETTING: 7-4 Locknegatic, 3-1 liketon MSI, 7-2 Lord Relic, 7-1 Precert-sen, 8-1 Mae Militeroit, 20-1 Highlandmen, 28-1 others

ERB (P25) (D) P Exdex 8 Ti 2

4.10 GARTHORPE MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) 52,500 added 2m 7f 110yds CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m /r 110yds 22.25 Air R Barton (7) 22.31 GRECNAL LARK (P16) (D) G J Enry 10 £2... Air R Barton (7) 22.31 GRECNAL LARK (P16) (D) G J Enry 10 £2... Air D Harney (7) £2.31 EMBAR BOY M Loyd 6 £2.5. Air D Harney (7) £2.31 THE FORTING (P37) (D) John Moore 8 £2.5 Air J School (7) £35.34 WOLVER'S PET (P10) (D) R Wilcox 10 £5... Air J School (7) £35.34 WOLVER'S PET (P10) (D) R Wilcox 10 £5... Air J School (7) £35.34 WOLVER'S PET (P10) (D) N J Parader 10 £0... Air J School (7) £35.34 WOLVER'S PET (7) WOLVER' ## - 7 October Lend, 9-1 Wolver's Pel, 7-1 Ger PETTING: 10-11 True Fortuna, 3-1 Grecian Lent, 9-1 Wolver's Pel, 7-1 Ger Pylaces, 20-1 Yery Dering, 25-1 Lemmar Boy, 23-1 New Day

4.40 THRUSTERS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 1f 48042 CHAPPICCI (19) (II WE E Hosm 8 Th TLLIASS F MACRIMIN (7)
62-85 MR BEAM (27) (II) P Alongin 8 Th TLLIASS F MacRimin (7)
600-P ONE NORE REPEE (P29) R Instance 7 II TO Mr A Sorthoma (8)
628-P SANCEPE MESIC (29) May K Marks 17 II TO Mr A FORENCE (7)
628-P SANAH (11) (I) 3 Sownship 9 II TO MAY P MICARIMON (7) B
1,569-8 TUBLUN OUT (P29) J Halburs 9 II TO MAY P MICARIMON (7)
1,769-8 TUBLUN OUT (P29) J Halburs 9 II TO MAY P MICARIMON (7)
1,769-8 TUBLUN OUT (P29) J Halburs 9 II TO MAY P MICARIMON (7)
1,769-8 TUBLUN OUT (P29) J Halburs 9 II TO MAY P MICARIMON (7)
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1,769-8 TUBLUN OUT (P29) J Halburs 9 II TO MAY P MICARIMON (7)
1,769-8 TUBLUN OUT (P29) J Halburs 9 II TO MAY P MICARIMON (7)
1,769-8 TUBLUN OUT (P29) J HALBURS (7)
1,76

BETTING: 7-4 Principle Missic, 3-1 Chiappucci, 7-2 Nr Been, 10-1 Paniller Princip. Sect., 14-1 Rando Oct, 23-1 Helbam Tim, Script, 33-1 others



ALAN WATKINS

ON RUGBY

casion in the world. The relative change in the position of Ireland and Scotland. While England and Wales, which I Australia would be bobbing wrote about last week, has about somewhere in the middle. done nothing to alter this view.

The idea that there should be some First or (as it would now no doubt be called) Super or Premier division, consisting of Australia, England, France, New Zealand and South Africa, is so much pie in the sky. It is pie, and I will tell you why.

Such a competition would

These last two would resemble Celts. much as Wales are in the Five Nations as at present consti-

Most of the silly talk has disappeared in the wake of last Saturday's matches. But it will resurface above the waves, mark my words, when France, are now called - though, if you es interest altogether in rugby, with their hangers-on to the pound the errors of the autumn players' contracts with their perhaps two.

every month or so, that the Five tions. That is to say, New tain ancient elements which middle classes! Nations' Championship is not Zealand and South Africa are not Celtic at all. They are

relegated, and Ireland, Scotland, Wales or even Italy promoted? not even a specially appetising England or both next heavily de- keen to transmit inferior match- were quite capable of trans-

been expressing the opinion, supposed failings of the Five Na-matters, all three countries con-transmitted as bait to hook the

There is no doubt, however, only the greatest rugby event would find themselves in the po- shortly to be joined by Italy, who that such a two-tier system of but also the finest sporting oc- sition of England and France. will have to rank as honorary world rugby would be possible logistically, on account of the Most of the talk has come relative speed of modern transfrom England rather than from port. Some years ago, again -France. There is little doubt that with Ken Jones I am the it is chiefly motivated by greed: longest-serving columnist in by the possibility of even more the whole of this great newslucrative deals with Rupert paper - I wrote a column say-Murdoch's Sky television. But ing that rugby football had yet what happens when England are to come to terms with the invention of the jet engine.

The point I was trying to Would Murdoch be quite so make was that large aircraft feat the Celtic nations, as they es? And what happens if he los- porting entire rugby squads England coach, is set to com-

months in Australasia.

counters they resembled last for England's remaining matchautumn a maiden aunt who in middle age had suddenly discovered the joys of sex. The who had a tough Five Nations

hausted Casanova himself.

personages at Twickenham. Keith Barwell,

nally caught up with the march none of "his" players are going of science. Indeed, in their enthusiasm for single-match en- says that no one will be picked able for the summer expedition.

There is no doubt that the schedule for England players, England players have contracts in front of them, would have ex- laglio, of Wasps, also has a con-But is it an implied term of the

FOR a long time now I have reproduce almost precisely the want to be accurate about these which, like cricket, is being ends of the earth, and that conthough to be fair to him, the clubs that under International been expressing the opinion, supposed failings of the Five No. sequently the era of the lengthy summer tour of Australasia. Board rules they must put tour was dead. In particular and South Africa as well was de country first. Only a High Court there was no need to spend vised by happily anonymous judge, I am afraid, can resolve hand over money to the genor so, the rugby authorities fi- Northampton owner, says that themen in wigs, I hope a judge

praction perf

witter puts

lacreback foot

I now look forward to a season of upsets, with England losing to Scotland and Ireland, and France to Wales, For Ireland v Wales in Dublin I shall be intellectually neutral although emotionally committed. But I with their clubs. Lawrence Dal-shall not shed any tears if Wales lose. On their performance in tract, or the promise of one. Paris, Ireland certainly deserve Now Clive Woodward, the with the Rugby Football Union. to emerge from this Five Nations with at least one win and

Hills to

bring in

betting

Sports Betting WILLIAM HILL will introduce betting on Formula One. teams for the first time at the

on teams*

Brazilian Grand Prix on March 29. In common with other book-

makers, they usually give odds on individual drivers only.

The move follows the con-

troversial finish to Sunday's

Australian Grand Prix, when

David Coulthard let his

McLaren team-mate Mika

Hakkinen finish first. The team.

had earlier agreed that whichev-

er driver was first out of the first

corner would be allowed to win_-

unhindered by his team-mate.

with disgruntled punters com-

plaining about David Coulthard

and, whilst we sympathise with

them, we would have to point out

that it has been an integral part

of the Formula One scene,"

said William Hill's spokesman.

"Just as we have to take the

possibility of such a scenario

into account, when we set the

odds, punters must do likewise

. Sharperalso called for teams

to amounce their instructions

publicly before races. "This,

kind of situation... could be

prevented if teams had to an-

nounce such instructions before

Sharpe said William Hill,

who had quoted Hakkinen at

13-8 and Coulthard at 9-4 be-

fore the race, were in no posi-

tion to know that the drivers had

come to a prior agreement.

Hakkinen and Coulthard 13-8

joint favourites for the Brazilian

Grand Prix with the McLaren

William Hill have now made.

a race," he said.

when they place their bets."

Graham Sharpe, yesterday.

"We have been inundated

Lucic joins the youth revolution

John Roberts on tennis' latest prodigy, who reached the ripe old age of 16 yesterday

ONE OF the first questions ris- consistently in excess of 100 ing tennis stars are asked concerus their introduction to the sport. Steffi Graf's father shortened the handle of one of his rackets for her: Monica Seles' cartoonist father drew Tom and Jerry on the tennis balls; Martina Hingis' mother practically handed her daughter a racket at birth and named her after the great Navratilova.

Mirjana Lucic was four years old when she hid on the back seat of the family car as her father took her older sister, Ana, for a termis lesson at a local club in the Croatian seaside town of Makarska. Mirjana sneaked on the court. "When I took the racket, I wouldn't let it go," she said.

Her grip has been loosened from time to time by the WTA Tour's age eligibility rule, which restricts the number of tournaments accessible to players under 18. Having marked her 16th birthday yesterday, Lucic is entitled to increase her activity from eight to 10 WTA Tour events (starting with the Lipton Championships in Florida on 19 March), plus the year-end championships and any of the four Grand Slam tournaments for which she gains direct entry by virtue of her world ranking. At the age of 17, she will be eligible to play 13 WTA Tour events.

Lucic's father, Marinko, a former Olympic decathlete, considers that his daughter has been penalised by the rule. He was particularly upset when Mirjana was not given wild cards for the French Open (won by her compatriot, Iva Majoli, 19) and Wimbledon (won by Hingis, 16).

If time has been allowed to pass his daughter by, it has done so fleetingly. The latest addition to the WTA Tour's attractive and varied cast of teenagers -Hingis, with the big smile and stunningly mature game, Anna Kournikova, every ball-boy's dream, and the Williams sisters, Venus and Screna, winning with attitude - Lucic is accustomed to appraisal. Almost 6ft tall, blonde, blessed with an aggressive baseline game and the strength and timing to serve by advancing to the third leaves him in good shape for his

mph, she commands attention.

Her arrival on the WTA Tour was spectacular. Unranked, and a qualifier, she became the first player ever to win a professional tournament on her debut, appropriately at the Croatian Open last May. Lucic did not drop a set, and in the semi-finals defeated Amanda Coetzer, the diminutive South African who had eliminated Steffi Graf at the 1997 Australian Open and was soon to beat the German again at the French Open. "Mirjana is an incredible girl," Coetzer said. "She beat me in everything I was

In her second event on the major tour, in mid-May, still unranked and having qualified for the main draw in Strasbourg, Lucic defeated two seeds, Judith Wiesner and Nathalie Tauzial before losing to Graf, her idol. in the final, 6-2, 7-5. Afterwards, Graf told Lucic she had a great future and informed reporters, "I was not nearly as good as she

Graf, who joined the tour at the age of 13 after outclassing the junior competition, graduated steadily through the senior ranks, by current standards. moving into the world's top 10 during her third season. It was the American Jennifer Capriati's to a Grand Slam semi-final at 14 and her subsequent emotional turmoil, that prompted the tennis administrators to address age eligibility.

On 1 July, having competed in her third professional tournament, advancing to the final of a satellite event in Marworld ranking, No 69. That persuaded the United States Tennis Association to accept her in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Sunentry for the US Open singles

draw of 128. Confident of performing well when able to trust the even bounce of the balls on medium-pace concrete (she won the 1996 US Open junior singles championship and the 1997 Australian Open junior singles and doubles titles), Lucic move Agassi at least 10 places marked her Grand Slam debut up the ATP Tour rankings and



round at Flushing Meadow, el- cic hits the ball harder than tise after surgery to repair a on the rubberised concrete evating her ranking to No 50. She was defeated in three sets by Jana Novotna, the No 3 invitation to Switzerland the

Last May, Lucic received an

horse. It was not the first time. (the "Rebound Ace" is a replithat the young Croat had visit-

Agassi on a roll after second triumph in a row

seilles, Lucic qualified for a ANDRE AGASSI won his sec-next event, the Champions Cup Croatian left-hander Goran ond tournament in a row when in Indian Wells, California, the he clinched the ATP Tour title first Super 9 event of the year.

> event for a third time by beating Australian Jason Stoltenberg 6-4, 7-6, taking the world number 50 to 16 wins for

the year against just two defeats. The win, coupled with the one last week in San Jose, will

seed, who concluded that, "Lu-moment Hingis was fit to prac- ed Trubbach to play with Hingis

"It's no miracle cure, just a lot of hard work," Agassi said The American won the of a post-Australian Open winning streak which has stretched to 10 matches. "I'm out there getting better and playing well."

Tim Henman, the British No 2, has moved up one place from 20 to 19 in the latest world rankings without hitting a ball. Henman was not involved in a tournament last week but has been promoted because

Ivanisevic lost nearly 100 points and has slipped to 21 from 19. Greg Rusedski, the British No 1 who reached the quarterfinals at Rotterdam, remains at six in the latest ATP list announced yesterday.

Both Rusedski and Henman were injured at this time last year, Rusedski with a wrist injury and Henman with elbow trouble for which he had an operation. So until June neither British player has any points to

with a future rivalry in mind, by

knee damaged in a fall from a court at the world No 1's home adding, "but maybe not mentally." Marinko Lucic, who has four ca of the surface at the Ausother children, resents any sugtralian Open). The youngsters became friends after meeting at

gestion that he is an opportunist having sold a restaurant and three procesy stores in order to 1996, and Lucic is valued both. concentrate on supervising Mirjana's career. "She'll be No 1 in the world some day, if God allows it, but we've learned from the mistakes of the others," he told the New York Times.

partner her in the doubles. "They looked too much at the money. Yes, it's a business, but the focus should be on the game, and the money will come later if you do this correctly. I wish that my daughter doesn't play past 25. I want her to get friends, get married, and have a life. We don't want to lose perifying the compliment, perhaps spective." Amen to that.

team 1-3 favourites to win the race. Ferrari are 9-2 and Williams 5-1. Honda plans

return to

HONDA said yesterday it had decided to return to Formula, One racing with a comprehen-. sive team using its own engine,

Formula One

chassis and management. Honda has begun a feasibility study on its return to Formula One after withdrawing. from the sport in late 1992. "It was the strong determination of our young engineers that, prompted Honda to start its se-. nous consideration of returning to F1 racing," Nobuhiko Kawamoto. Honda's president and.

chief executive officer, said. Kawamoto added that the timing of the return would be finalised by the end of this year. The team structure, manage ment and actual timing of the re-, turn to racing have still to be. fixed," he said. "We decided to return to Formula One by not, only making engines, but also by. developing and making car chassis and handling the management of our own racing team,"

Honda's approach will be: similar to that of Ferrari, which manages its own team and develops and makes its own engines and chassis. Other majorcar manufacturers now in Formula One supply engines to in-. dependent racing teams.

Honda took part in Formula One racing as a team between, 1964 and 1968, winning two victories out of 35 races. The company was involved in For-, mula One from 1983 to 1992 asan engine supplier, winning 69;

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Varsity veteran Meredith makes it six

Hockey

By Peter Colwill

WHEN Mike Meredith, the Cambridge University captain steps on to the pitch today at the National Stadium in Milton Keynes for the 98th Varsity match, it will be his sixth appearance in this annual event.

Blues for Oxford, before switching allegiance, has from a hernia and has not played a full match in the starting line-up, he is an integral part of Cambridge's penalty corner routine.

Cambridge, surprise winners last year, have had their best ever season in the Adnams East League, finishing second Meredith, who won three and go into today's match with

with a 4-3 win against East Ansince November. Although not glians and a 4-2 victory over Ipswich in their last league match.

the confidence gained from a re-

the Fed Cup in Spain in April

as a companion and a powerful

In Novotna's absence at the

Australian Open two months

ago, Hingis invited Lucic to

They won the title, a victory

which made amends for Lucic's

second-round defeat in the

singles by Majoli, the No 4

of the biggest threats to Marti-

na." said Melanie Molitor,

Hingis mother and coach, qual-

Tennis-wise, Mirjana is one

sparring partner.

Oxford, 13th in the First Division of the National League, have two players, Tom Matthews and the captain, Renwick Irvine, who played for England in the Under-21 World Cup at Milton

CAMBRIDGE (INIVERSITY: I Ward (Emmanus). Them's Sciency Sussed, it Horison (Listus). O Bress' (Emmanus). P Outram (Cusers). T Groutin (Hirly). Beliannes' (Emmanus). A Cotton (Losse). C Lisconthic Sidney (Student). Sussed, J Mayor' (S. Johns). M Stather (Hornerton). Substitutions: M Humins (Printy). M Mercalitr' (Care). G Playtair' (Robinson). T Young (Hornerton). In College (St Catherine). M Backford (Janus).

DATORID UNIVERSITY. L. Crother (St Catherine). M Backford (Janus). cent good spell which finished Outronia ordensiste L. Crigina." (S. Citherinis), J. Boumphrey (Pentrolia), J. Hodges (Cluseris), D. Sadis (St. Edmund Hell), P. Barker (Hintly), M. Darborr (Wordesten), R. Hivina." (Incord), M. Firer (Roble), R. Arsoott (Febie), T. Matthewa." (St. Edmund Hell), Substitutes: D. Grundy (Dester), J. Cattreen."

Dong the latest big name to pull out of All-England event

Badminton

DONG JIONG, the All-England men's champion, will miss

this year's championships, which begin in Birmingham today. "We are trying to find the reason why," a spokesman for the organisers said. "It's disap-

pointing to lose the defending

champion, of course, but it will not detract from the event."

The world champion, Peter Easmussen of Denmark, withdrew on Sunday with an ankle injury. Dong is the third seeded player to pull out in the past few days, after Rasmussen and his Danish team mate, Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen,

Some Asian countries have

year's championships because of Asian currencies. financial hardship, but officials names would be present. Although the sport recently extant tournaments have been for Hong Kong in May, may be

sent smaller squads to this

Two big tournaments, the had been confident all the big Korean Open and the Thailand Open, have already been cancelled, and a third, the Inpanded to a record 137 affiliated donesian Open at Sulawesi, in countries, its leading nations August is at risk. The Thomas and several of its most impor- and Uber Cups finals, scheduled

badly hit by the withdrawal of switched to England.

sponsors and the collapse of

Atherton hopes net practice will make perfect

Cricket

By Henry Blofeld in Bridgetown

Partedos 472-6 dec

England 372-7

ENGLAND'S three-day game against Barbados meandered on as a pleasant enough exercise in the sun on another lovely Caribbean day. Much of the bowling was done by the spinners and bore little or no resemblance to what we can expect in the fifth Test which begins here on Thursday.

None the less, in general terms, practice in the middle is much more valuable than net practice. This point is in no way hade as a tacit criticism of Mike Atherton, who chose to have strenuous nets each day instead of playing against Barbados.

The chairman of the selectors, David Gravency, who arrived in Barbados last weekend, principally to supervise the acclimatisation and practice of the seven players who are coming out from England for the oneday internationals which start at the end of the month, said mid-off.

as they took a commanding

position against Australia after

the fourth day of the first Test

3 by the close after being set 348

to win following a second-in-

nings declaration by the Indian

captain, Mohammed Azharud-

elling day in the field and then

lost Michael Slater, Greg

Blewett and skipper Mark Thy-

or during the final hour, leav-

ing them still needing 317 to win. If Tendulkar was the batting

star - which also included half-

centuries for Azharuddin, Navjot

Sidhu and Rahul Dravid - then,

with the ball, it was the leg-spin-

ner Anil Kımble who shone.

ping a wide delivery from pace-

man Javagal Srinath on to his

stumps before Kumble took

over. Blewett, on five, was

snapped up at silly point and

Taylor followed soon after on

Slater went first for 13, chop-

The tourists endured a gru-

in Madras yesterday.

din, at 418 for 4.

Tendulkar's batting puts

Australia on the back foot

SACHIN TENDULKAR'S su- 13, snicking the leg-spinner to

gurb unbeaten 155 inspired Ingully off the last ball of the day.

creening

during the day that Atherton had been talking on the telephone to Graham Gooch. His predecessor will have given Atherton points to work on, in which case net practice can then be more valuable as the precise circumstances of each can be recreated time and again - which cannot, of course, be done in the middle.

Atherton's shortage of runs -he has scored just 96 in his last seven Test innings - is causing more concern than it should be. The first three Tests, four if you include Sabina Park in which he was out for two, were played on bad pitches and against two of the best fast bowlers in the world. 'Atherton's low scores must be seen in this perspective and his 49 played an important part in helping England to win in Trinidad.

His main problem, which Gooch has surely got him working on, is his method of playing back. Like so many contemporary batsmen, when he plays back there is not much movement back towards the stumps and most of the time he ends up square on to the bowler with his toes pointing down the pitch at

Kumble, who claimed four

victims in the first innings by ful-

ceding a run.

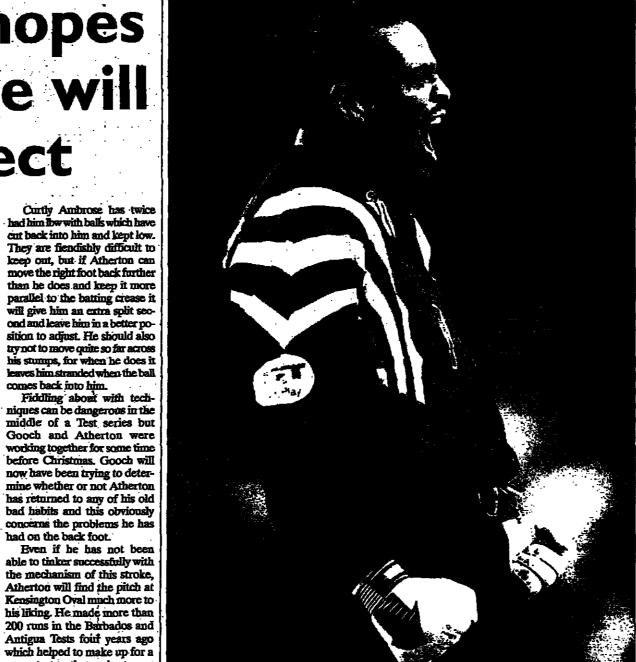
hosts had made 257.

poor start to that series too. But four years ago England came to the Barbados Test three matches down with the series lost. Now, they are 2-1 down and if Atherton, who says his batting does not feel out of sorts, can again take advantage of the even bounce here, he could play a significant part in helping England get back on level terms.

had on the back foor.

ly exploiting the pitch's bounce and turn, ended with two wick-The four main batsmen on Australia struggled to 31 for ets off 1.4 overs without conshow yesterday against Barbados - Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash and India had started the day on 100 for 1 after Australia scored Adam Hollioake - all had use-328 in their first innings, giving ful spells in the middle before getting themselves out to carethem a 71-run lead after the less strokes. It was a pity that no one went on to make a century, but at least none of the bats-





Bernard Lama: 'Now I have a lovely antelope to eat'

Photograph: Empics

First Division plans revealed

Football

By Mark Bradley

FIRST DIVISION clubs yesterday outlined their groundbreaking proposals to bridge the gulf between the Premier League and the Football League by achieving greater au- League clubs had earlier warned to those in the Third Division. tonomy for themselves.

The clubs insists they do not want to break away from the Football League - but they do want more control over their ins. They are keen to reprocess with the Pre-League that were hurned

two years ago when separate television deals were set up, cost- the League board to set up their ing them up to £25m a year. The clubs fear that keeping

the status quo would make it increasingly likely that the three sides relegated from the top flight each year would come rector, Karren Brady, and the straight back up the next season. Nottingham Forest, Middlesbrough and Sunderland, who all went down last term, currently fill the top three places.

Representatives from Birmingham, Bradford City, Charlton and Stoke outlined their proposals to a meeting of their Second and Third Division counterparts yesterday in London as part of the League's continuing restructuring plan.

Chairmen of some lower that the plan could spell financial "disaster" for some of them - yet conceded that it was likely to get the go-ahead as there was the implicit threat of a full give way.

The Second and Third Di- for themselves. vision clubs left the meeting with own committee, which will meet on Thursday and will give a formal reaction in due course after considerable debate.

Birmingham's managing di-Bradford City chairman, Geoffrey Richmond, outlined the forward and stressed that it division.

would not spell financial rain for lower league sides. Their proposal centres around the League's disposable revenue, which is currently worth £33m a year and split up on the basis of 59.5 per cent to First Division clubs, 23.5 per cent to Second Division clubs and 17 per cent

The First Division clubs want the power to negotiate a new TV deal themselves when the present one expires in three vears' time and distribute the exscale breakaway if they did not tra cash around the Football League - but keep a larger share

They also want control over commercial and marketing activities that directly affect them, such as the power to obtain sponsorship for the First Division and to name it accordingly. Other issues include having power over the number of clubs in the First Division, with current promotion and relegation case that the 24 First Division numbers retained only while clubs were unanimously putting there are at least 20 clubs in the

Hammers unleash the lauded Lama

The French goalkeeper is - at last- making an impression in Britain, says Glenn Moore

was concerned, there was one compatriot too many at Highbury on Sunday.

The Arsenal coach felt a flutter of concern as soon as he knew Bernard Lama would be in the West Ham United goal and his fears were realised as. impressively, the 34-year-old kept a second clean sheet against Arsenal in seven days. "He always played like that

against Monaco in France," bemoaned Wenger in admiration. "He is world class, one of the top three goalkeepers in the world. Everything is so clean. He is always very flexible and so quick: it is so easy for him to move."

Wenger had been astonished that West Ham, having signed Lama at Christmas, had preferred Craig Forrest in goal until the Canadian was injured last week. Lama, who has 35 French caps, had arrived from Paris St-Germain after being banned last year for testing positive for cannabis in a drug

"I did not sign him because we have David Seaman and Lama is not the sort of goalkeeper who you sign as cover. He is a great goalkeeper -West Ham had gold in their

ARSENE WENGER is English surprised but I understand he football's biggest importer of is not known here - but it does Prench players but, as far as he not need five reserve games to know he is top class."

Lama, who is desperate for regular football as he tries to regain a place in the French national squad, had threatened to leave West Ham when he was not picked but has persevered. After his debut last week he said "I was like a caged lion, but now I have a lovely antelope to

Harry Redknapp said of his keeper, who was born in French Guyana in South America. "He looked very confident. But this was not an occasion to worry him. He's played for France and in a European Cup final."

With Samassi Abou, a France Under-21 cap, also in the West Ham team and Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vicira, Nicolas Anelka and Christopher Wreh appearing for Arsenal, there were six French players at Highbury plus Remi Garde on the bench and Gilles Grimandi not involved.

None, however, are certain starters for the French World Cup team though Vieira is likely to be in the squad and both Lama and Petit might be.

"I don't now what will happen," added Lama. "Aimé-Jacquet [the French coach] knows me and he knows how I hands but did not know it. I was

Vieira escapes one-match ban

By Bill Pierce

THE referee, Paul Durkin, has cleared Arsenal's French midfielder Patrick Vieira for the FA Cup quarter-final replay against West Ham next week. The official told the Football Association he was wrong to book Vieira in a Premier League match between the two London sides.

It means double relief for Vieira who expected a onematch suspension having already been shown a total of 10 yellow cards this season even before he was booked two minutes from the end of last Monday's goalless draw at Upton Park.

The bonus for Vieira is that now only three of those cards remain valid in counting towards a ban. For one card is struck from the record - on application to the FA - whenever a player completes five consecutive matches without a booking.

Thanks to Durkin's intervention, the expunging of Vieira's caution at Upton Park - his 23rd yellow card in just 18 months in English football means that the Arsenal-West Ham FA Cop-tie at Highbury last Sunday is now deemed his fifth consecutive game without a caution.

Following a flare-up with West Ham's John Moncur after the whistle in that match Vieira's disciplinary record was again the tocus of attention. The referee, Mike Reed, however, has said the incident will not be included in his report.

● Uefa, European football's ruling body, said yesterday that more World Cup seats will be made available for foreign fans. - but warned that the number of new tickets would not meet demand. "People will be a little bit happier," Uefa's president, Lennart Johansson, said.

Sporting Digest

Pakistan destined for defeat

Cricket

S Africa 293 & 206 for 7 dec Pakistan 106 & 120 for 7

PAKISTAN survived the first 14 overs of their marathon attempt to save the third Test against South Africa yesterday, reaching tea on 32 without loss on the fourth day. They still need another 362 for an unlikely Saced Anwar reached 17 at

the interval with Ijaz Ahmed looking less secure with 15. Aamir Sobail injured his right wrist during fielding practise after the close of play on the third day and will not be able to bat until five wickets have fallen.

Alten Donald failed to find his thythm in the five overs he burwled before the break and Shann Pollock looked more dangerous, South Africa employed the services of the left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams for the two sesting overs before tea.

South Africa resumed their second innings at the start of play on 94 for 2 and lost only one wicket in the morning session when Jacques Kallis on 69 edged an attempted back-foot drive to the wicketkeeper Rashid Latif in the last over before lunch. Hylton Ackerman, in his second Test, also batted resolutely for 42 from 110 balls.

When the declaration came an bour after hunch, Pakistan were left with a target of 394 in a minimum of 142 overs re-

Fourth ober, Pattalan word stats: Solida Africa 250 (W.) Osonja 65. M V Boucher 52. Weiger Youris 6-78 and 206 for 7 dec. Pattalann 106 (R 6 de Miles) 8-23 and 120

Athletics Judy Oelose, Britain's leading woman-shot-putter, has invited five of the "best of the rest" to a series of training camps. Two of the five, Joanne Dun-can (Essex Ladies) and Vicki Fostar (Aldershot), were second and third be-hind Cales in last months AAA Indoor Characteristics in Bitminotan.

ionships in Birminchem.

Baskethall NBA: Atlanta 101 Cleveland 96; Indiana 104 Boston 100; Charlotte 109 New Jensey 105 LA Lakers 95 Detroit 89; Seattle 99 Min-reacts 96 (cd); San Antonio 52 Portland 78; Vancouver 103 Entroito 106; Washington 100 Fhiladelphia 91; Cricago 102 New York 89; LA Cippers 100 Denver 89.

Cricket Sussex have agreed terms with the left-erm spin bowler Richard Davis, who has played for Kent, Werwickshire, and most recently Gloucestershire, to add strength and experience to their

add strength and experience to their one-day squad.

TOUR MATCH (Johannesburg, SA; final day of three); Gauteng 296 for 7 dec and 205 for 6 dec; Sri Lanka 245 for 6 dec and 136. Gauteng won by 118 rums.

SUPERSPORT SERIES (Fixed day of four); Kimberley: Natal 379 (D M Berlienstein 96. N C Johnson 54. A G Bothe 52; G A Roe 4-89) and 239 for 4 dec (E J. R Stewart 51. J. N Rhodes 60no); Grigueland West 425 for 9 dec (W Bosenoper 29no, H Bryan 77, M I Gidley 53) and 105 for 5 (J M Arthur 55; C Tatton 4-82). Match drawn.

Football Devid Luces, the Preston goaleaper, has become the sole Second Division player in the Football League squad to face their Italian League Sarie 8 counterparts at The Valley today. The 20-year-old has been drafted in as a

replacement for Richard Wright, the England under-21 goalkeeper, who was injured playing for ipswich at the weekend. Shaun Deny and Wayne Quinn (both Sheffield United), James Scowcroft (pswich) and Lee Crooks (Moschester Cityl have also hear) SCONCIOT (poswori) and Lee Crooks (Manchester City) have also been called up in place of the injured Adri-an Forbes (Norwich), Seth Johnson (Crewe), Nigel Quesinie (Queen's Park Rangers) and Alan Rogers (Notting-land Carpett)

Umpires: M Jones and D Holdes

Huddersfield Town are set to sign the unsettled Arsenal striker, Chris womya, on a free transfar. WOTTYS, On a free transfer.
WALES SQUAD (v Jameice, Ninker Park, Caretts, 25 Marcelly, P Jones (Southampton), Marriott (Whotham), Jenkins (Haddersfield), Page (Watlord), Ready (Queerls Park Rengers), Colesses (Pulsum), Edwards (Bristol City), Williams (Wokes), Robinson (Clastrol), Celar (Perton), Sweage (Leicaster), Speed (Newcaste), Pendridge (Steffeld Wed), Burnard (Berneley), Hartson (West Hern), Blates (Bolton), Belandy (Norwich), Taylor (Sheffeld Utd), Sesunders (Sheffeld Utd), On standby, Bowen (Chariton), Systons (Marchester Chy), Liones (Barmerd), M Jones (Leach), Bett 1's SCOTTISH (LEAGUE Frotons Bowen (Cherthol), Systems (Manchester Chy), L.Jones (Barrhor), Systems (Manchester Chy), L.Jones (Barrhor), M.Jones (Barrhor), M.Jones (Barrhor), M.Jones (Barrhor), M.Jones (Barrhor), L.J.Culf Fidding change; Sun 15 March; Calife v Dundes Utd (from 14 March).

DORAL RYDER OPEN (Mismal, Fis) Leading fixed secrets (US unless stated): 278 M Bradley 71 68 70 71, 279 J Huston 70 68 73 67, B Meylak 72 70 68 69, 281 V Singh (Fili) 71 68 72 70, M Brisky 68 71 71 71; S Cluk 70 68 71 72 282 D Love 73 72 70 67: S Hoch 72 68 73 70, 283 T Herron 70 57 78 70; J Furyk 77 62 73 71; L Mattisce 73 67 72 71; J Cook 73 67 37; L Mattisce 73 67 72 71; J Cook 73 67 37; L Mattisce 73 67

70 74 72 72 298 N Price (2m) 71 70 77 71. 291 M Weir (2m) 71 89 77 74 293 N Feldo (58) 72 70 74 77 294 G Walte (N2) 76 89 75 74; R Coughten (In) 74 88 77 75 296 W Grady (Aus) 73 71 77 75 297 S Lyle (GB) 71 74 78 78.

CHANY PURSY 15 11 11 12 25 Upt (CC) 71 74 74 75.

EUROPEAN ORDER OF MERIT 1 E EL (SA) 2278;520; 2 J M Oliczebni (Sp) EU7/DSR 3 A Celtart (Sco) E148;525; 4 T Bjorn (Den) £108;535; 5 I Woosman (Min) £108;25; 6 R Goosma (Sa) £394;65; 7 P Soland (Swe) £30;835; 8 S Altan (Aus) £394;40; 9 T Johnstone (Zni) £70;328; 10 A Cejan (Sen) £50;40;41 1 L Westwood (Eng) £5100; 12 P Hanzington (In) £55;55; 13 A Reshoome (Eng) £549;6; 14 R Karlsoon (Swe) £53;371; 15 D Frost (SA) £22;075; 19 P Batter (Eng) £49;50; 17 V Philos (Eng) £53;87; 18 D Rost (Eng) £49;50; 19 P Batter (Eng) £49;50; 19 P Batter (Eng) £49;50; 19 P Price (Wei) £38;520; 20 R Marriz (Neith) £35;59.

NHL: Caroline 3 Anebeim 1; Deline 1 Photolo 1 (cd; Philadelphia 4 Pitteburch 3 fcd. Skiing

Sicting
HEERTYLE WORLD CUP (Hundialist, Swe)
Rogels: Merc. 1 J Moseley (LS) 2705csts. 2
J Farmback (Swe) 2807; 3 J Lahsen (Fr) 2805;
4 K Lansburgh (Swe) 2551; 8 L Lassin (Fr)
2504; 6 FA A Fourseau (Can) 2537; 7 G Haiger
(LS) 2525; 8 S Musicren (Fr) 2501; 9 P Sundbarg (Swe) 2437; 10 J Hegrier-Laforque (Fr)
2197; Womear 1 T Satoya (Japan) 2454; 2 M
6thuse (Swe) 2355; 3 K Tran (Nor) 2287; 4 E
Mchityre (LS) 2256; 5 M Kartu (Fr) 2227; 6
K Hogstad (Can) 2257; 7 C Gin (Fr) 2232; 8
K Shigstad (Can) 2257; 9 J Vogil (LS) 2135; 10
A Battiste (LS) 2053.

Akabono and Takanohana, the leadresulting an in land miles, the second rank, suffered defeats for the second consecutive day at the Spring Grand Sumo Bounament in Osale yesterday. It is the first time since the yelcours. rank was established in 1909 for two or more grand champions to lose two consecutive matches each from the

SPRING GRAND TOURNAMENT (Osska) SPRING GRAND TOURNAMENT (Ouska) Sacond day (of 15): Hgonouni (won 1, bat 1) bt Assenseica (1-1); Michard (2-0) bt Goloro (2-2); Aldroeiru (1-1) bt Harmanoshima (1-1); Krischichiole (2-0) bt Harmanoshima (1-1); Krischichiole (2-0) bt Tarmakasuga (0-2); Kyolutshimo (1-1) bt Tarmakasuga (0-2); Kyolutshimo (1-1) bt Harmanoshi (2-0) bt Tochinouska (1-1); Tosenoumi (2-0) bt Tochinouska (1-1); Tosenoumi (2-0) bt Tochinouska (1-1); Chyotaska (2-0) bt Schinouska (1-1) bt Manoyama (1-1) bt Shidshima (0-2); Tochinouska (1-1) bt Manoyama (1-1) bt Manoyama (1-1) bt Manoyama (1-1); Massahimaru (1-1) bt Kotoyu (0-2); Welamohama (2-0) bt Welamohama (2-0) bt Welamohama (2-0) bt Welamohama (2-0) bt Massanimaru (1-1) bt Cotoyu (0-2); Welamohama (2-0) bt Welamohama (1-1) bt Cotoyu (0-2); Welamohama (2-0) bt Welamohama (0-2)

Table tennis

Lisa Lomas, England's leading woman player since 1982, yesterday announced her retirement after winning her fourth English women's singles totle in Bath at the English National tie in Bath at the English National Championships. Lomas, from Dun-stable, a silver medallist at the 1992 Eu-ropean Championships in Stuttgart, is to turn to coaching both for the resional teams and at Milton Keynes. Lomas will play her last matches for England at the European Championships in-Eindhoven, the Netherlands, starting on 23 April.

Tennis I entrius
ATP TOURNAMENT (Scottsdale, Artzona)
Stogles, finai: A Agassi (LS) bt J
Stoflerberg (Aug) 64 7-8.
COPENHAGEN MEN'S TOURNAMENT
Singles, first round: D Sanguinetif (ft) bt J
Van Harck (Bel) 7-6 7-5; M Gustabson (Swe)
It J Krostak (Stovek) 6-1 7-6; R Furian (ii)
bt J Printzbu (Den) 5-3 3-6 6-3.
WTA TOUR EVERT CUP (Inciden Wells,
Calify Singles, second round: S Testud (Fr)
bt J Heierd-Decugis (Fr) 6-3 1-6 6-4; D van
Roost (Bel) bt B Paulas (Auf) 8-4 6-0; A
Suglysma (Japan) bt 7 Snyder (US) 8-1 4-6

Gomez (Ec) and M Purcel (US) by J Lloyd (GB) and M Barhami (Iran) 6-4 8-3.

LEADING ATP MEMPS RANKINGS: 1 P Sampres (US) 3,716pts; 2 P Korda (Cz Rap) 3,377; 3 P Rafter (Aus) 3,211; 4 Y Kafelridov (Pus) 3,027; 3 P Rafter (Aus) 3,211; 4 Y Kafelridov (Pus) 3,027; 3 J Broteroam (Swo) 2,816; 6 G Rusedaid (GB) 2,252; 7 M Pilos (Chie) 2,777; 8 M Chang (US) 2,969; 9 A Correta (Spo) 2,551; 10 R Knjicosk (Neth) 2,300; 11 G Kusrten (Br) 2,252; 12 K Kuczena (Slovak) 2,771; 13 F Marnitia (Sp.) 2,108; 14 M Philopouneis (Aus) 1,992; 15 S Bruguera (Sp.) 1,933; 16 C Pioline (P) 1,982; 17 A Berassingul (Sp.) 1,992; 15 S Bruguera (Sp.) 1,933; 16 C Pioline (P) 1,982; 17 A Berassingul (Sp.) 1,992; 16 C Moya (Sp.) 1,800; 19 T Herram (GB) 1,923; 20 T Moya (Sp.) 1,900; 19 T Herram (GB) 1,923; 20 T Moya (Sp.) 1,900; 19 T Herram (GB) 1,933; 27 N Kashe (Aut) 1,971; 21 G Marissovic (Cros) 1,532; 22 A Alectedae (Us) 1,522; 22 A Costa (Sp.) 1,532; 28 A Mechadiae (Us) 1,522; 23 M Passet (Swi) 1,514; 30 T Johnmann (Swe) 1,900; 3,577,996 (Sp.) 1,200 Charles (Dr. Marissovic (Dr.) 1,900; 1,9

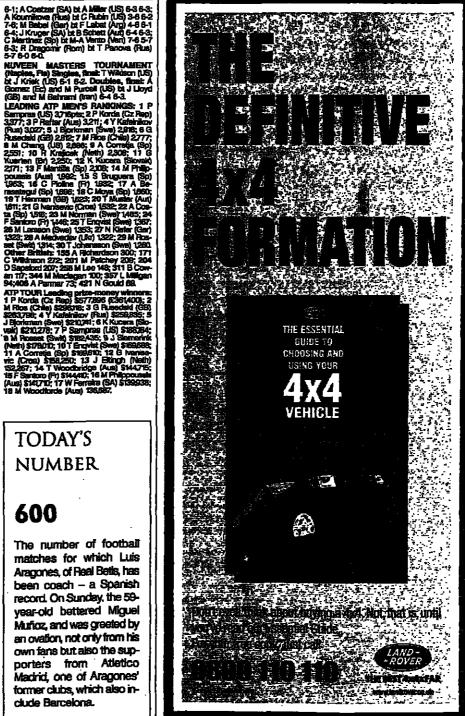
TODAY'S NUMBER

600

Aragones, of Real Betis, has been coach - a Spanish record. On Sunday, the 59year-old bettered Miguel Muñoz, and was greeted by an ovation, not only from his own fans but also the supporters from Atletico Madrid, one of Aragones' tormer clubs, which also include Barcelona.

The number of football

matches for which Luis



Today's fixtures

Football MATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Supported v Birmingham (7.45) — 7,30 unines stated Sunderland v Barnaugnam (17.85)
Second Division
Briatol Rowers v York (7.85)
Harris Division
Derivation v Streetsbury
Denomitar v Sourborough
Denomitar v Sourborough

Denominary Semborough ALTO WINDSCREEDS SHELD NORTHERN AREA FINAL PRIST LEG Crissiby v Burning (7.45) SOUTHERN AREA FINAL PRIST LEG Water v Bournemouth (7.45) Walter Sournemouth (****
Walter V Sournemouth (***
CAN VALUE ALL CONFERENCE
CAN VALUE V Famborough (***

(***

CAS)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Porter v Investmen Cust Triation Livinguish v Croent of the Sec Hospines v Hope County Harton Postbell Leegue v Hely Sarie S (7.45) fot The Welty, Charltoni FYMANY LEEGUE Premier Divisions shallon v Bronton; Harrow Borough v stretche. Beet Divisions Berkmannis Usbridge: Billericaty v Abingdon Team; Grays v Whyselestic; Romiterd v Tharea, Second Ol-visiote: Benstead v Hungerford; Banking v Markow (745); Egham v Boding & Markova; Leighbon v Tibury (745); Waskinsons v Withman (745); Tuhrid Divisione: Cambridge v Withman (745); Tuhrid Divisione: Cambridge v Market (745); Contribian Cassasia v Hames Hampassad (745); Fard Ust v Homomarch; Hartford v Flatitudi Health (745); Laues v Hankov (745); Ware v East Thurnock (745); Generical Inserance Cap send-dinais second leg: Boreham Mood v Oxford City; St. Abans v Sutton Utd. Full Members Cap fourth rotats: Boreham Wood v Yasding. Guerth rotinct: Bicrefrent Wood v Yanding.
DR MARTTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Dorchester v Bornsgrove (745); Rotheel v
Carrotricgo Chy (745), Middlend Division: Bedworth v Soffmat Borough; Eventum v Hinch
wy Unf (745); Reddich v Vienwich; Snepsned
Dynamm v Stafford Rengers (745), Southern
Division: Cinderford v Clevedon: Pister v Hevant; Waterloosile v Ibritricy (745), League
Cup semi-fiend first leg; Mastion v Reddich,
Second leg: Mangate v Bashley.
UNMBOAD LEAGUE Premier Division: Metcik v Russley Celtic, Neitherfield v Walter, Metcik v Russley Celtic, Neitherfield v Walter, Metcik v Russley Celtic, Neitherfield v Walter, SeTrafford v Greine; Witch Albin v Great Harvood, Pyresidente Cup semi-fiend first legBlyth Spartates v Russlorom (745).
WINSTONELED KISHT LEAGUE First Ray. oryin specialis y russom (1905) WINSTONLEAD XENT LEAGUE First Divi-elous Folketione Invicts v Deak Hame Bay v Chetham: Hythe v Faversham.

rum.
JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-vision (7/8): Great Yarmouth v Dies; Herwich & Parkesten v Sudbury Wenderers; Henn v Newtoriot, Lowetoff v Helstead; Sudbury Rown v Wenton; Totree v Woodbridge; Woo-hern v Palanhem.

ARMOTT INSURANCE MORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Durision FB v Poreth. NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pro saler Division: Liversodge v Huckmait, North Ferrby v Shaffsidt; Casett Ksen v Amold; Pick-ering v Brigg; Traciday v Malby MM; Pres-ident's Cap secul-finet: Casett Albion v Glasshoughton Welfare. CHESTION TO THE COUNTY SELECTION TO COUNTY SEL

Premier Distance Conton Town v Yazing, Facil Sports v Kempston; Hobesch v Standard, All-rices Blockstone v Wellingborungh, Leegam Cup third reunds Daventry v Wootton. Interdunkt EXPRESS MEDILARD ALLI-ANCE: Cressionen v West Midsands Police; Kryperstey v Bottmers; Ottbury v Biotxich. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Pro vleforc Chard v Bridgwitter; Eknora v Bridport (745): Manacosfield v Backwall LEAGUE OF WALES: Exten Valory Inter Ca-PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: M

chester City v Coventry (70) (at Attrinchem). Second Division: Bractiond City v Cartain (70) AVON INSURANCE COMMINATION F Vision: Assensi v Swindon (20). THE TRUES FA YOUTH CUP Figh round: Pe-

Rugby League UNIVERSITY MATCH: Orderd v Cambridge [730] (at Richmond RUFC). Rugby Union ALLIED DUNBAR PRE

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Ekminghem Builets v Shelfield Sheris (730). ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE Play offs Group A: Newcastk Cobas v Ayr Sostein Engles (720); Noting tem Penthera v Statified Sheets (720, Grosp B: Bracknell Boos v Cardiff Devils (730); Bas

Other sports

we wiself the

Motor racing

By Derick Allsop

MIKA HAKKINEN'S victory 'pre-arranged" finish with his McLaren-Mercedes team-mate, David Coulthard, which let him tion McLaren for what it did." in for victory, may be outlawed later this month.

18 March.

"Team orders specifying the finishing order of drivers within a team have existed in moin the Australian Grand Prix on tor sport since the beginning of in Europe for the fourth round, Sunday will stand - though the the century," the FIA said in a the San Marino Grand Prix. statement. "It would therefore not be right to criticise or sanc-

The real problem, though, is that Ron Dennis, the man-The FIA, Formula One's aging director of McLaren. governing body, turned down a must know that he has it withganisers yesterday, but said the the Formula One world champractice of a gentleman's agree- pionship as a viable contest.

First races can be misleading,

pared. Conventional wisdom maintains that the championship proper begins when they arrive

This year, however, it appears improbable that any team will be able to make sufficient obvious superiority. They ing themselves in Melbourne, protest from the Australian or- in his power to make or break raising the prospect of a whitewash that eluded them by just one race out of 16 in 1988.

The redeeming feature of

bigger ones, are totally pre- duel by the McLaren drivers Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost, the former eventually shading it eight wins to seven. Formula One now turns to Coulthard and Hakkinen to save this year.

Team arrangements are nothing new in motor racing and McLaren were involved in progress to threaten McLaren's controversy at the final race of last season when Williams' lapped the rest without extend- Jacques Villeneuve, assured of the title, allowed Hakkinen and Coulthard to pass him in the closing stages.

At Melbourne the co-operation was purely inhouse.

over their opponents, but were huge crowd and the organisers. "arrangement" is not as blatant. credibility and ultimately will uncertain of their reliability and so accommodated their Coulthard's words in anticipadrivers' agreement that whoever made it to the first corner in front would be granted victory.

Formula One is a team game and that made sound team sense, but it is also a public spectacle for which trackside customers and television companies around the world pay substantial sums.

Coulthard's extravagant ges-ture in slowing down for Hakkiafter a mix-up over a pitstop,

World Motor Council meets on because not all the teams, even that year was the magnificent McLaren were confident they two laps from the end of the erwise. At the very least, he is FIA may not welcome

tion of a comfortable victory at the next race in Brazil. "I am expecting to be repaid.

I could have won the opening race, but hopefully we will put this to bed after the next race and carry on from there," he said. "After two races we should be on an even keel, so there won't be a points disadvantage."

Dennis contends his no risk nen, who found himself trailing policy is justified for another race, but maybe persuaded oth-

had a performance advantage race, understandably irked the likely to make sure any

During the baild-up to the season Dennis talked of his relishing the prospect of having vie against Piquet in the 1986 two drivers battling for the title, as with Senna and Prost, and
of Formula Che's most thrilling with Prost and Niki Lauda at moments. McLaren in the mid Eighties.

Some teams defend control of their drivers on the grounds that rivalry can become over- pelling championship this heated, as it did between Senna and Prost, or self destructive, as between the glory.

Bookmakers make betting: and Nelson Piquet, in 1986.

have no appeal. After all Mansell's overtaking manoen-

Coulthard and Hakkinga are well matched and capable of giving us a similarly comveear that would cover McLaren and Formula One in

Woodward will drop tour rebels

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

ENGLAND'S professional clubs look certain to lose the powar with Twickenham. Clive one else, too." Woodward, the England coach, will take a full-strength party to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa whether the mutimiership like it or not, but the a climb-down. Rugby Football Union face huge problems in their attempt over the red rose élite.

Tim Rodber and Matt Dawson - with Five Nations oblivion.

"I'm not a bully, I haven't cajoled anyone into doing anything and I'm certainly not in squad feels likewise." the business of forcing players country." he said. "I'm simply saying that I will not countenance a third party, Northampton in this case, telling me who I can and can't pick for England. I can't do the job if that is going to be the case.

*No one at the RFU tells me how to run this team and I sure as hell have no intention of being held to ransom by the club the moment it feels like a knife

is being put through our dreams. "Of course I feel for the Northampton guys, but if they litical battle over this summer's can't make themselves availfour-Test tour of the southern able for this tour they will not hemisphere, but they remain play against Scotland on Saturconfident of winning their wider day week. That goes for every-

Those words effectively torpedoed the Northampton initiative and there were signals last night that Keith Barwell, the nous power-brokers of the Pre- Saints owner, was considering Woodward, who has forged a

close and mutually supportive reto secure contractual control lationship with "Club England" players since taking over as As the ramifications of coach last autumn, was backed Northampton's decision to bar to the hilt by Jeremy Guscott, still their international contingent the most glittering jewel in the from all summer tours contin- England crown and one of only ued to reverberate yesterday, two players present at Twickenan emotional but unrepentant ham yesterday. "Players love game dies," he said. Woodward wrapped himself playing for their clubs, but ultiretain the right to play for England as and when I and the selectors wish - and as far as I'm aware, every other member of the

However, there was a sting in to choose between club and the Bath centre's tail and it sent a highly toxic message in the direction of those RFU big-shots, Cliff Brittle and Fran Cotton included, who believe the only way to bring the clubs to heel is to sign up dozens of leading players on union contracts.

"I'm still very loyal indeed to my club which, unlike the RFU, has done a lot for the players," Guscott said. "The clubs have deowners. All I'm interested in is livered everything they promised

building a side capable of winning us and, in all honesty, I can't say the World Cup next year and at the same for the union. There is no way the England players can turn their backs on the clubs and sign with the RFU; they would be crazy to do so, because it would be like turkeys voting for Christmas. I hope all my colleagues stay contracted to their clubs because if they don't, they will forfeit the control they have

over their own futures." Cotton, last summer's victorious Lions manager and now the influential vice-chairman of the RFU management board, continued to play hardball by saying there was "no possible dialogue on the subject of player avail-

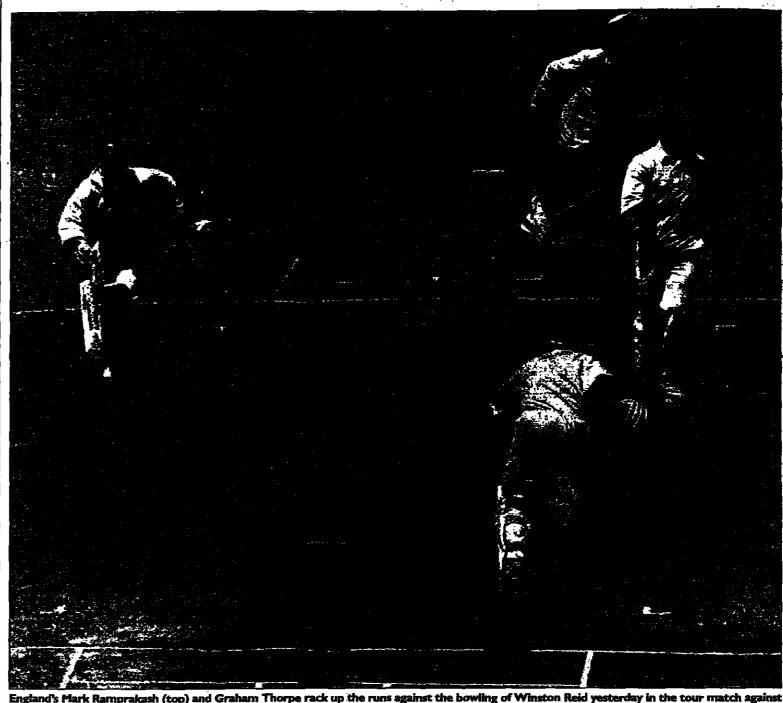
ability" for the close-season tour. "Every player declared his availability when he signed his England contract and, as far as I'm concerned, the day these players decide not to play for their country is the day the

Both Cotton and Brittle, in the Union flag and justified mately they want to play for their the RFU chairman, denied the stand that threatens three country," he agreed. "I'm avail- making any contractual apthe England captain. They did, however, admit that discussions had taken place with representatives of Gary Connolly, the Wigan rugby league centre.

The Australians have made their position clear by calling on the IB, rugby's world governing body, to enforce the clause in their charter demanding that countries send their strongest possible sides on Test tours.

Woodward will this week ask each of his players to confirm their availability, and he will then select his side for the Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield on Sunday week. Ireland unchanged, page 24

Runs in the sun as England warm up



Barbados at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, where the fifth Test starts on Thursday Report, Henry Blofeld, Page 27; Photograph: David Ashdown

Francis withdraws his resignation

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

ACROSS Thereby involved in hardships of actors (4.5) Fill-in makes a reflective

attempt to buy about a pound (2-3) Show superiority holding a 26 wild type (5) 10 Applied heat to men in a

poor condition (4-5) 11 Was attentive to duty in cathedral by day in a merilonous way (10) 12 People at university will get

a choice (4) Bridge players in trail for backer (7)
It will produce print of trees axed (7)

17 Priest carries woman's bas-19 Sort of memory can upset European in love affair (7) 5

22 Rod runs out to meet Eng- 7 lish hospital worker (5,5) 25 I bear main strains of

cook's requirement (4-5) Assign a charge for crossing and coming back (5) Church official led off to Queen (5) 28 Fancy biscuit's a favourite

thing to give to quartet (5.4) DOWN Die unexpectedly getting doctor in fix (5) Feathers providing answer in south-west county (9) Exotic fruit is cut to an adanced design (10)

Companion of left-wing Discharge from dismissed and dismembered fowl (7)

active (4)
Made light man supple (5)
At feast note an upholstered bench (9) Company measure also ap-

Diocese shortened part of NT and can be distinguished (9) 16 Voice control at poor standard (9)

18 Might it prevent one leaving a sinking ship? (3-4)
19 Consider giving arbiter leoture (7) Crossword diagram involves new technous task (5) Chemical derived from exnsive steroids (5) Eastern ruler got over

A live daughter but not yet

plied to worker's leader

decision.

Football

TREVOR FRANCIS has with-

drawn his resignation as the

manager of Birmingham City.

Saturday evening after his son,

Matthew, was verbally abused

by a section of supporters dur-

ing the 1-0 First Division win

over Queen's Park Rangers.

Yesterday, though, Francis said

that the "overwhelming and

magnificent" support of the

club's fans was instrumental in

persuading him to reverse his

fordshire with Birmingham's

chairman, David Gold, on Sun-

day and said: "I have been giv-

en certain assurances that

things will change in the future.

I have been quite overwhelmed

by the reaction of the fans and

their support has been a large

factor in my decision."

Francis held talks in Ox-

Francis quit St Andrew's on

last week. Speaking in an interview with the German magazine Kicker, Klinsmann said his

Lincoln and Southend manag- after missing a penalty he had er who stepped in as caretaker when Nigel Spackman resigned as Sheffield United manager last proved it was a head-butt I will week, will remain in charge at Bramall Lane until the end of the season. The Blades have also appointed the director

Kevin McCabe as acting chairman to the end of the season. Everton have signed the Scottish international striker at Old Trafford. John Spencer on a month's loan from Queen's Park Rangers. The Burnley goalkeeper Marlon Beresford has joined Middlesbrough for £400,000.

The Leeds manager, George Graham, will study video evidence of the head-butting incident involving his striker Jimmy Flovd Hasselbaink and the Wolves defender Keith Curie during Saturday's FA Cup quarter-final before deciding whether to punish the Dutch striker. Hasselbaink was

Steve Thompson, the former confronted by a taunting Curle won. Graham said: "I have not seen the incident vet but if it is take action."

Wolves' semi-final against Arsenal or West Ham will be played at Villa Park on 5 April. The other tie that day, Newcastle against Coventry or Sheffield United, will be staged

Bradford City and Bury have been fined £25,000 each, with £20,000 suspended until the end of the 1998-99 season, following a brawl between the two teams in December.

Darren Barnard has been called up by Wales - even though the defender was born in Germany and is a former England Schools international. The Barnsley wing-back has been picked for the friendly against Jamaica at Ninjan Park Cardiff, on 25 March.

Klinsmann paints picture of Spurs disarray

THE Tottenham Hotspur striker Jürgen Klinsmann has said that he was representing the views of other players when he had his much-publicised argument with the White Hart Lane club's coach, Christian Gross,

dispute with Gross came after a lot of tension between the other Tottenham players had players and the coach. I tried asked him to intervene.

"When I was signed by Tottenham I was expected by all sides to take responsibility in the fight against relegation," the

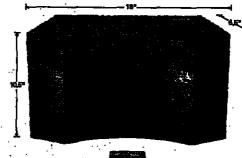
repeatedly to be the diplomat and to close the gap. But for weeks nothing happened, there was no reaction."

Klinsmann, who has said German international captain he is leaving Spurs when his said. "I did that after seeing that contract expires in the summer, many things here are in a mess rowed with Gross over tactics and don't function. There was and team selection last week.

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